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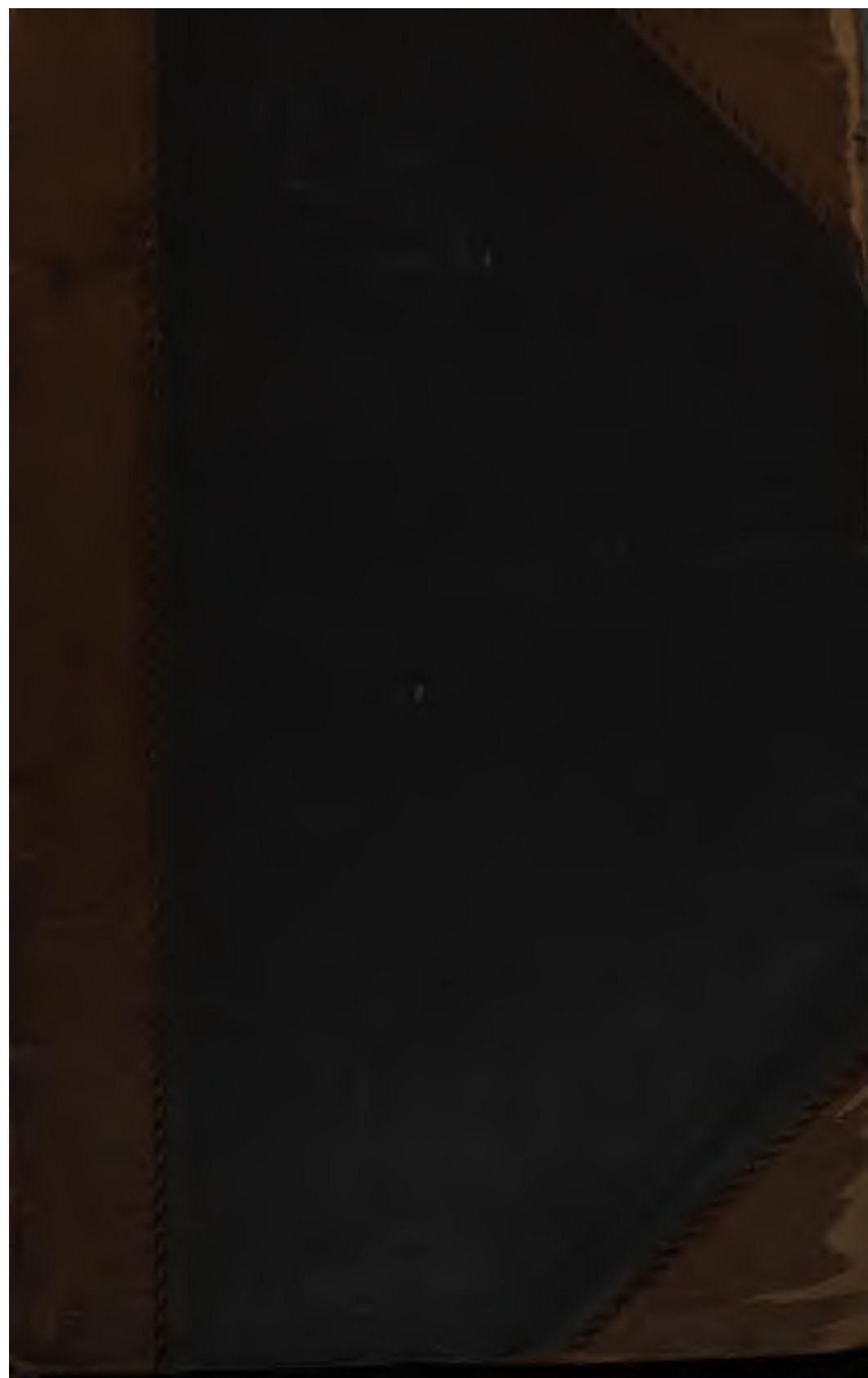
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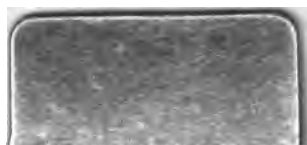
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40.

1081.













ANECDOTES,

PERSONAL TRAITS, AND CHARACTERISTIC SKETCHES

OF

VICTORIA THE FIRST,

FROM HER BIRTH, AND BROUGHT DOWN TO THE PERIOD OF HER
MAJESTY'S MARRIAGE

WITH

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ALBERT OF SAXE-GOTHA;

INTERSPERSED WITH

AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT OF ALL THOSE EVENTS SO CLOSELY
CONNECTED WITH THE HOUSE OF BRUNSWICK, AND A
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF THAT ILLUSTRIOUS
PRINCE.

BY A LADY,

WHOSE SOURCES FOR COLLECTING THE SAME ARE OF THE HIGHEST
CHARACTER.

LONDON:

WILLIAM BENNETT;

SIMPKIN AND MARSHALL; AND ALL OTHER BOOKSELLERS.

—
1840.

1081.

THOMS, PRINTER, WARWICK SQUARE.

PREFACE.

An event so rare and so fraught with hopeful anticipation as the accession of a youthful female to the throne of Great Britain, was naturally calculated, not only to awaken in the hearts of her subjects the warmest feelings of affectionate loyalty, but to excite an almost universal desire to obtain the fullest and most authentic information respecting the education and early life of so exalted and interesting a personage. The writer of the following pages sympathising in the feelings of the public, and willing to disseminate as widely as possible, some small portion at least of the gratification which she had for many years enjoyed in watching the growth and opening intelligence of the Presumptive Heiress of England, determined to throw together, for the benefit of her fellow subjects, in the form of anecdotes and sketches, not altogether desultory but following each other regularly, in point of time, all the notes and observations which circumstances had enabled her to make throughout the infancy and childhood of the Princess, and even to the period of her accession.

Encouraged by the patronage bestowed upon her undertaking, she was induced to proceed with a record of the most important of those public events which have occurred to the Queen during her yet brief reign, together with a variety of anecdotes and incidents more immediately connected with her private life, which derive additional interest as tending to confirm the fact that personages born to reign are also born to the feelings and dispositions common to humanity in general, and that such feelings and dispositions properly nurtured, directed, and improved, will not

PREFACE.

only secure to the monarch that which her power and greatness is unable to command, the affectionate respect of her subjects ; but tend highly to promote her own happiness by relieving her, in great measure, from that sense of loneliness which her insulated station is calculated to inspire. The authoress considers herself extremely fortunate to have been enabled in the course of her labours to detail with minuteness and accuracy every particular connected with the imposing and interesting ceremony of the Coronation, and still more so to close them, for the present, with a glowing description of that auspicious solemnity which has been so lately witnessed, and which promises the blessing of domestic felicity to our beloved Sovereign, and to the nation, that of a lengthened posterity, in the union of the illustrious lines of Brunswick and Saxony.

It is peculiarly gratifying to complete the present volume under the influence of that burst of popular enthusiasm which this happy event has so strongly called forth ; and should the future domestic circumstances of the long and prosperous reign, which it is fervently prayed may be in store for Victoria of England, justify a continuation of these sketches, and the general voice call for it, the writer pledges herself, should it please Almighty God to permit it, to resume her pen at some future period, when she flatters herself that various anecdotes of infant scions of the throne, may be interwoven with those of their august Parents.

ANECDOTES,
PERSONAL TRAITS, AND CHARACTERISTIC SKETCHES
OF
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

“ See ! in the sunshine of a mother’s smile,
Under the mantle of a mother’s care,
A maid, the hope of England ! blooms awhile,
Bright as the jewel in Aurora’s hair,
Fresh as the rose, and as the lily fair ;
Whom with enduring virtue heaven endow
The burden of a kingly crown to bear.”

IT is well known that King George the Third, the grandfather of her present Majesty, ascended the throne of these realms at the age of twenty-two years, on the 25th of October, 1760, by the death of his grandfather, King George the Second ; that he married shortly afterwards the Princess Charlotte of Mecklenburg, who lived so many years his virtuous and respected Queen ; that it pleased God to

bless his union and support his throne with a numerous and flourishing offspring; that he swayed the sceptre longer than any of his predecessors; and that he died at the advanced age of eighty-two, leaving a name behind that will ever be connected with some of the most important events in the history of our country.

On these events, then, it is needless here to enlarge; but, before proceeding to the immediate object of this work, *Anecdotes and Personal Sketches* of our young and lovely Queen, it may be advantageous briefly to review the peculiar and interesting circumstances under which she was given by a merciful Providence to the land.

KING GEORGE THE THIRD AND HIS FAMILY.

OF the seven sons of King George the Third, the eldest and the most remarkable for his personal and mental graces, was George Prince of Wales, afterwards King George the Fourth. He was married at about thirty-three years of age, to his cousin the Princess Caroline of Brunswick, and had one only daughter, who, according to the established law of succession in this country, was the acknowledged heiress of the throne, her royal father having no sons. This daughter, the beloved and lamented Princess Charlotte of Wales, who grew up under the tender watchfulness and solicitude of a whole nation, was united in the spring of the year 1816,

to His Royal Highness Prince Leopold of Saxe Coburg, now King of the Belgians, and expired in childbed of a still-born son, on the 6th of November, 1817:

“That morn the mighty city silence kept,
Grief was upon her, and her spirit wept.”

The chasm thus created in the succession to the throne, was serious and alarming; the king's sons were none of them young, and not one grandchild survived to inherit his virtues and his crown: in short, the prospect of a foreign sovereign did not appear very distant, unless it should please God to raise up a branch from the royal stem that might yet support its glory.

The second son of King George the Third was Prince Frederick, Duke of York; he married at an early age the Princess Frederica of Prussia, but had no children. He lived respected and beloved, and died universally regretted on the 5th of January, 1827.

Prince William-Henry, Duke of Clarence, and afterwards King William the Fourth, the third son, was unmarried at the time of the Princess Charlotte's death; it then, however, became the duty of all the princes to do their best towards repairing the breach made by that sad event in the succession. His Royal Highness accordingly married a few months afterwards the Princess Adelaide of Saxe Meiningen, whose devotion to the last moments of our lamented sovereign, has been so often and so

4 KING GEORGE THE THIRD AND HIS FAMILY.

justly recorded. Before the King's accession, her Majesty had made him the father of two daughters, both of whom, as they were respectively born, stood next to their august parent in the regal inheritance. The eldest, named Charlotte-Augusta-Louisa, was born at Hanover, and lived only a few hours; the Princess Elizabeth, the youngest, was born at St. James's Palace, a weakly infant, in the depth of winter. She lived, however, through the months of January and February, and though she never left the house, it was reported that her strength was gradually increasing, and hopes of rearing her began to be entertained. But the rough east winds seized her delicate little frame, and she died, to the deep affliction of her parents, early in March, at the age of three months.

Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, was the fourth son of King George the Third, and father of Queen Victoria; for the present, therefore, we will pass him over, and proceed to

The fifth son, Prince Ernest-Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, now King of Hanover, and heir presumptive to the throne of these realms. This prince had been united about two years before the death of the Princess Charlotte to the Princess Frederica of Mecklenburg, his cousin, but had at that time no living children. Prince George, his only son, was born afterwards on the 27th of May, 1819, and is, therefore, three days younger than his royal cousin, the present Queen.

Prince Augustus-Frederick, Duke of Sussex, the sixth son, is still living unmarried.

Prince Adolphus-Frederick, Duke of Cambridge, the seventh and youngest son of King George the Third, married, in consequence of the Princess Charlotte's death, the Princess Augusta of Hesse, and has three children: Prince George, who is about two months older than the Queen; Princess Augusta, now sixteen years of age; and the infant Princess Mary, in her fifth year.

MARRIAGE OF THE DUKE OF KENT.

HAVING thus observed the failure of descendants from the three elder sons of the King, and slightly glanced at those of the younger, we return to Prince Edward, the fourth son, from whom we trust our children's children may look for their line of successive monarchs for ages yet to come.

Prince Edward was educated in immediate connexion with his next elder brother, Prince William-Henry, the late King, and on attaining his twenty-first year was created Duke of Kent. He was early appointed to a military command abroad, and consequently many years of his youth were passed out of England; he returned, however, in the flower of his age, and by a life of active usefulness and benevolence secured to himself the respect and affection of the British people.

In person he was tall and handsome, in manners courteous and engaging; his talents were distin-

guished and varied; but the chief feature of his character was benevolence, and a desire to improve the condition of the poorer classes of his fellow-subjects. To this great object he devoted with zeal and ardour his time, his abilities, and his fortune; but alas! his wishes were more extensive than his means. Owing to considerable losses sustained in the course of his military service, and to other peculiar circumstances of his early life, his income, originally extremely limited, had become much involved, and increasing difficulties compelled him at length, in justice to his creditors, to remove from a scene in which he was extensively useful and highly respected. He therefore determined to spend some years of retrenchment at Brussels, making over to trustees the whole of his annual income for the payment of his debts, retaining only so much as was absolutely necessary for his own maintenance upon the most economical system. This arrangement took place in the year 1816, shortly after the marriage of his niece, the Princess Charlotte.

During a tour in Germany, which he made previously to his final settlement at Brussels, the Duke passed near the residence of the widowed sister of his newly acquired relative, Prince Leopold of Saxe Coburg, and courtesy led him to pay his respects at the Castle of Amorbach. Here in seclusion lived the dowager Princess of Leiningen, superintending the education, and nursing the revenues of her minor son, the reigning Prince Charles, then about twelve years of age, and of her beautiful

daughter the Princess Feodore, aged nine years. The personal attractions of the young widow, united to the dutiful respect and ardent affection with which she was regarded by her children and dependants, and the harmony and regularity which reigned throughout her household, made a deep impression on the Duke of Kent. These early sentiments of admiration and esteem were hourly increased during his short abode at this attractive mansion, and ere he quitted it his heart had found an additional and powerful incentive to persist in his plan of expatriation and retirement, till he could return unincumbered to his native country, and by his presence there, give it the benefit of his active and generous exertions for the public good; and above all, complete his felicity by establishing in a state becoming her rank and inestimable merits, a lovely, accomplished, and high-minded princess, who might, by the blessing of God, make him the father of a line of princes, to transmit his name and that of his illustrious race, with honour to posterity, and crown his declining years with the endearments of domestic affection. The Princess participated in his feelings, and the exalted pair parted with the pleasing, though somewhat distant prospect of meeting again to unite their hands and their hearts for the happiness of each other.

But vain are the designs of man. "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." Scarcely had the Duke of

Kent pursued his praiseworthy system of retrenchment for the space of one year, when the unexpected and afflicting intelligence reached him of the death of the Princess Charlotte and her infant son. With the warmest emotions of affection and grief he mourned her untimely loss; and when he reflected on the consequences of this national calamity he saw the propriety of sacrificing his own convenience to the public good. A speedy union was proposed to the object of his choice; the Princess assented, the Prince Regent approved, and the Parliament settled an additional annuity of £6000 on the Duke, which was to be continued as a dower to the Duchess, in case of her surviving her royal husband.

The people of England rejoiced in this marriage, and the royal bride was received with an affectionate welcome. Her prepossessing exterior, the cordiality with which in public she received and returned the salutations of the multitude, looking around her as though she expected to find in every face that of a friend, and the emotions of sympathy for the affliction of her widowed brother, which circumstances occasionally drew from her, tended greatly to increase these spontaneous expressions of regard; and the departure of the royal pair for the continent, after a short stay in England for the introduction of the Duchess, was a subject of universal regret, though the motives of the Duke were respected. It was during their winter's retirement at Amorbach that the Duchess was flattered with the hope of pre-

senting her beloved husband in due time with an heir, and as she entirely concurred with the Duke in his patriotic wish that his child should be born on British ground, the happy prospect was no sooner assured than the necessary arrangements were set on foot for attaining this most desirable object. But the Duke did not meet with that encouragement from the government of this country which might naturally have been expected; obstacles were thrown in the way of his return, and it was not until very late, and then only by the assistance of friendship, that the means were procured for undertaking this long journey. It was, however, at length accomplished, and the Duke and Duchess, accompanied by the young Princess Feodore, arrived here in April 1819. So great was the anxiety of the Duke for the safety and comfort of his Princess, that he drove her himself in his phaeton the whole road (with the exception of the short passage by sea from Calais to Dover) from the Castle of Amorbach to the Palace of Kensington. Her Royal Highness experienced no inconvenience from her journey, but received the congratulations of the royal family and members of the nobility immediately on her arrival; and continued in the enjoyment of good health and spirits for nearly a month afterwards, taking regular exercise in Kensington Gardens, always accompanied by the Duke. Meanwhile active preparations were making for the reception of the royal heir; the baby-linen was provided, the nurses and doctors were engaged, and the room in the palace which was

formerly the north drawing-room was appointed for the nursery, as it adjoined the Duchess's bed-room at the north-east corner of the palace.

THE BIRTH.

NEVER did royal birth take place under circumstances more auspicious than those which greeted the nativity of our youthful Queen. The nation, just recovering from the electric shock occasioned by the sudden death of the lamented Princess Charlotte and her infant, hailed the appearance of a Princess, the next in succession to the throne, with a joyous welcome; and it was believed to be an omen of goodly import that the day which ushered the future sovereign into the world was the same which had, eighty-one years before, given birth to her revered grandfather; for such was actually the fact, although the celebration of that happy anniversary was, by the change of style, removed to the 4th of June, creating the same difference, and from the same cause, between the good king's birthday and that of his new-born heir, as exists between old Christmas and new Christmas. Thus granted in answer to a nation's prayer to replace the loss it had so recently sustained, the day, and even the very *hour* of her birth, for it was that of sunrise, seemed to guarantee those hopes which from the very dawn of her existence have been fixed upon her, which have gradually gathered strength as, rising day by day towards maturity, she has been presented lovely

and beloved to the gaze of her future subjects ; and which, now that she is beheld a Virgin Queen, proudly seated upon the throne of her ancestors, we may humbly trust are rapidly advancing to fulfilment.

The *accouchement* of the Duchess of Kent took place amongst all those forms of state and etiquette which are prescribed by our laws for the guardianship of the royal succession. The privy councillors and great officers of state assembled in the saloon adjoining her Royal Highness's bed-chamber, and there, at a quarter past four in the morning of the 24th of May, 1819, it was announced to them that the Duchess was safely delivered of a Princess ; the state attendants immediately entered the apartment, the infant was presented to them, and they signed, conjointly with the physicians, a certificate of its birth, together with a report of its perfectly healthful appearance. The Duke of Kent, with his own hand, signified the joyful news to all his relatives, both at home and abroad, before he retired to rest.

The royal birth was made known to the public in the course of the day by the following notice in the *Gazette* :—

“ Kensington Palace, May 24, 1819.

“ This morning, at a quarter past four o'clock, the Duchess of Kent was happily delivered of a Princess. His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, his Grace the Duke of Wellington, Master-General of the Ordnance, the Marquis of Lansdowne, the Earl Ba-

thrust, one of his Majesty's principal Secretaries of State, the Bishop of London, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and the Right Hon. George Canning, First Commissioner for the affairs of India, were in attendance.

"Her Royal Highness is, God be praised; as well as can be expected, and the young Princess is in perfect health."

The feelings with which the little stranger was received are well expressed in the following pretty tribute :—

" TO THE INFANT PRINCESS.

" Fair scion of Brunswick, sweet blossom of May !
Ever blest be thy birth, ever hallowed this day !
By the morning of youth, by the noontide of age,
In the bard's brightest theme, the historian's page.

" Thy Albion receives thee, a gift from above,
With the warmth of a parent, the welcome of love ;
Whilst peace bids her dove olive chaplets to bring,
And deck the green altar of life-giving spring.

" Infant Princess ! thy earliest carol and smile,
Will salute the white cliffs of thy sea-belted isle ;
Where the valorous arms of the brave and the free,
When war rears a standard will glitter for thee.

" The prayers of a nation can greatly prevail,
Since the angel we mourned again we may hail ;
Blest scion of Brunswick ! prolonged be thy day,
And in blisses matured be the blossom of May.

M."

" *May 24th, 1819.*"

THE DUCHESS HER INFANT'S NURSE.

It was very speedily announced that the Royal Duchess intended to suckle the infant Princess herself, and this expression of maternal tenderness so unusual to royalty, was received with the highest satisfaction by the English people, who rejoiced to find that their future Queen was not likely to be reared amidst the cold forms of etiquette, but under the free and uncontrolled influence of the affections of the heart.

The satisfaction which this circumstance universally excited, was heightened by the gradual progress of the royal Mother towards convalescence; and by the thriving condition of the infant Princess, who grew and advanced daily in health and strength.

So great was the anxiety experienced in the upper circles for the welfare of the Duchess and her infant, that for several days, the inquiries commenced before eleven o'clock, and continued without intermission till evening; the numbers were so great occasionally, that the names could not be taken; and frequently between the hours of three and five, the line of carriages reached from the Duke of Kent's entrance to the palace nearly to Hyde Park Corner.

On Wednesday, June the 9th, the physicians announced that the Duchess of Kent was so far advanced in convalescence, that the regular daily bulletins would be no longer issued; and the infant Princess was also reported in the best health. Dur-

ing the succeeding fortnight the royal Lady gained strength rapidly, and the Duke of Kent, with that pious principle which presided over all his conduct, appointed Thursday the 24th of June, the very earliest day that the restored health of his invalid Princess would permit, for initiating his beloved child, then exactly a month old, into the church of Christ.

THE CHRISTENING.

GREAT preparations were made at Kensington palace for the celebration of this joyful festival. The grand saloon was beautifully fitted up for the occasion ; the superb gold font, kept for the express purpose of royal christenings, was brought from the Tower, and placed with appropriate accompaniments in this apartment ; and here the members of the royal family, with all the state attendants whose presence was required, had assembled by three o'clock, at which hour the ceremony commenced. The Prince Regent stood sponsor in person, and the Emperor Alexander, the Queen of Wirtemberg, aunt to the royal infant, and the Duchess Dowager of Saxe Coburg, her grandmother, by proxy. The personages present placed themselves in two semi-circles round the font, the members of the royal family forming the inner circle, and their respective attendants, with the household of the Duke and Duchess of Kent the outer. Dr. Manners Sutton, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Dr. Howley, Bishop

of London, who were to officiate, stood next the font. The Prince Regent gave his infant niece the names of ALEXANDRINA-VICTORIA; and the Princess Augusta, taking her from the arms of the nurse, presented her to the Archbishop, who, in a solemn and impressive manner, performed the baptismal service. At its conclusion, the Bishop of London recorded the proceedings in the register of the Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, which was also signed by the Prince Regent and several other illustrious witnesses. The company then removed to the spacious vestibule opening to the garden at the north side of the palace, where the Princess Alexandrina-Victoria was nursed, admired, and caressed, by her uncles and aunts alternately, and her parents received the sincere congratulations of all present. The Duke and Duchess of Kent gave a splendid dinner to a large company in the evening, when the health of the little Christian was drunk with hearty good wishes by all.

CHURCHING AND AIRINGS.

ON the following Sunday, the Duchess of Kent was publicly churched at the parish church of Kensington, by the Bishop of Salisbury, the much respected tutor of the Duke, and subsequently of the Princess Charlotte; her Royal Highness was accompanied by her affectionate consort, who led her to the altar. The next day, the Duchess and her infant daughter commenced their daily airings,

which were afterwards regularly continued whenever the weather permitted.

The first few weeks of helpless infancy glide unconsciously away, leaving little to record, even of the royal babe, save the watchful anxiety of the mother, and the exulting joy of the father as he proudly presents his smiling cherub to each succeeding guest, and listens with unwearied delight to their perpetually repeated praises of its activity, intelligence, and beauty. At this period, however, a circumstance occurred, which, though trifling in itself, may perhaps have had considerable influence on the early education of the Princess.

A REVIEW.

It happened that towards the middle of July, a grand review took place on Hounslow Heath; the Prince Regent was present, attended by a splendid train of military officers, amongst whom was the Duke of Kent. The Royal Duchess was on the heath in her carriage and four, accompanied by the Princess Victoria and her attendants. The Prince Regent is said to have objected to this early display of parental pride, and, turning to the Duke of Kent, asked with some displeasure, "Why was not that infant left at home? She is too young to be brought into public." Into public the royal babe was brought no more during the short period of her father's life; and it is believed, that to this expression of the Regent's opinion, may be in some mea-

sure attributed the extreme retirement in which the first ten years of the young Princess's life were passed.

VACCINATION.

A FEW days afterwards, Dr. Wilson and Mr. Pettigrew were called into attendance to prepare the infant Princess for vaccination ; and it is worthy of remark, that the Queen is the first member of the royal family of England who has benefited by this invaluable gift of the immortal Jenner to the human race. The Princess Charlotte, the last royal infant, was inoculated in the year 1798 ; she took the small-pox in so virulent a manner, that her life was for a considerable time in danger, and for three days she was totally blind. By the new preservative from infection, the Duke and Duchess of Kent were spared these distressing apprehensions ; their dear babe was vaccinated early in August, the operation perfectly succeeded, and in the course of a fortnight, all signs of indisposition had disappeared.

A PICTURE OF DOMESTIC HAPPINESS.

THE Duke and Duchess of Kent spent the whole of this summer at Kensington, in the enjoyment of the most perfect domestic felicity and retirement. Every day they were to be seen walking arm and arm in the beautiful gardens which surround the palace, mingling with pleasure amongst their delighted countrymen. The interest of the scene was

much increased by the presence of the royal infant, who, in the arms of her nurse, would answer with her innocent smiles to the occasional caresses of her fond parents, and the more respectful notice of the spectators. No strangers were permitted to approach her too closely ; but the cheerful accents of her prattle, and her blooming, healthful countenance, were sufficient evidence of her flourishing condition.

On Sunday evenings, when the gardens were always extremely full of company, the Duke and Duchess would promenade on the gravel-walk in front of the palace, and their infant-daughter was on these occasions always exhibited at the windows, which proved so great an attraction to the multitudes, that they would assemble in crowds around the slight green paling of the enclosed lawn, to catch a glimpse of the white flowing robe of the royal infant, which was about all that was discernible through the distance and the twilight. Though the Duke and Duchess of Kent occasionally joined in the friendly circles of the nobility, and frequently visited the theatres, their appearance was never expected early in the evening, as it was well known that with this tender mother, all the gratifications of gaiety and amusement faded before the purer delights of maternal love ; and that it was her constant habit to devote her whole attention to the nursery until the satisfied nature of her lovely babe had sunk into sweet repose. At the age of six months, the royal infant cut her first tooth, and was weaned at the

beginning of December. Her sweet contented temper, however, bore her through this first trial with very little inconvenience, either to herself or her attendants, and without any diminution of her health or good looks.

VISIT TO SALISBURY.

TOWARDS the close of the year, the Duke of Kent, accompanied by Captain Conroy, undertook a journey into Devonshire for the purpose of choosing a suitable residence for the accommodation of his family and household during the winter months, conceiving the milder climate of the west of England more favourable to the health of his consort, and to the growth and improvement of their lovely offspring, than the damp and heavy atmosphere of the vicinity of London. His Royal Highness accordingly engaged Woolbrook Cottage, the seat of General Baynes, beautifully situated in the romantic environs of Sidmouth; and on Monday, the 20th of December, the Duke and Duchess, with the infant Princess and the Princess Feodore, left Kensington Palace for Devonshire. They called at Windsor Castle on their way, and alighted for a short time to take leave of the Princesses Augusta and Sophia. In the full enjoyment of health, and surrounded by every earthly good, little did the Duke imagine that it was indeed a final farewell; or the royal ladies, that their next meeting would take place under circumstances of affliction which the wisest of human beings could not

then foresee ; and how grateful ought we to feel for that merciful dispensation of Providence, which, by veiling the future in impenetrable darkness, prevents our embittering the brief moments of happiness, by constant apprehensions, for the loss of those beloved objects which not all our care and anxiety could retain one hour beyond the appointed time. On the evening of the same day the family party arrived at Salisbury, and the appearance of their Royal Highnesses, with their numerous suite, in seven carriages, as they drove to the Bishop's Palace, created an extraordinary bustle, and offered an agreeable contrast to the usually monotonous course of events in that dull city. They were received with a cordial welcome by the venerable Bishop Fisher, his lady and daughter ; and spent two days under their hospitable roof, during which they received an address from the mayor and corporation ; were visited by the dean, canons, and prebendaries ; viewed the magnificent Cathedral ; Longford Castle, the residence of the Earl of Radnor ; and Wilton House, the beautiful seat of the Earl of Pembroke. On Tuesday evening they were present at a concert in the Assembly Rooms ; and on Wednesday there was a musical party at the palace.

Meanwhile, the Duke, always anxious to gratify the people, had given orders, that during his short abode in Salisbury, any respectable person who called for the purpose at the palace, at certain hours of the day, should be admitted to see the infant Princess Victoria ; and many of the inhabitants of

this favoured city may now boast of having thus early paid their respects to their future sovereign. On one of these evenings the bishop's daughter, desirous of seeing the royal infant undressed, went to the nursery at her bed-time ; and not expecting to find any one with her but her nurse, walked straight up to the child, when, to her great surprise, she found her in the arms of her mother, who was herself undressing her, an office she frequently performed. Miss Fisher would have retired immediately, but was desired by her Royal Highness to remain ; and they were soon after joined by the Duke, who came to take a last kiss of his darling for the night.

The bishop was extremely fond of the Princess, and delighted to play with her, and dance her in his arms. On one of those occasions, however, his lordship's dignity, and the gravity of the rest of the party were somewhat discomposed by the unceremonious plunge of both the little hands into the midst of the good prelate's wig, which, it may be supposed, was in some degree the worse for its rough attack ; the good-humoured bishop and the merry babe joined heartily in the laugh excited by the mischief of the unconscious little one.

RESIDENCE AT SIDMOUTH.

On Thursday the 23d, the travellers pursued their journey, and slept that night at Ilminster, where the popular manners of the Duke, the con-

descension of the Duchess, and above all, the sight of their beautiful infant, the heiress presumptive of the realm, excited universal enthusiasm. On Friday they reached Sidmouth, and were received there with hearty demonstrations of loyalty; the local band awaited their arrival at Woolbrook Cottage, and welcomed them with "God save the King."

In this sweet retreat their Royal Highnesses soon found themselves established to their heart's content. They appeared each day in public, and generally walked for some time on the promenade, accompanied by the nursery suite; the beauty and vivacity of the royal infant were the theme of every tongue, and her pretty, unaffected sister attracted a large share of admiration. The evenings were mostly spent in domestic privacy, but frequently enlivened by little social meetings of the neighbouring families at the cottage, when music formed the chief source of amusement.

DANGEROUS ACCIDENT.

A FEW days after the arrival of the royal party, an accident happened which had nearly been attended with very serious consequences. An idle boy, shooting at small birds in the neighbourhood, approached so near the residence of their Royal Highnesses, that a shot broke the window of the nursery, and passed close to the head of the infant Princess, who was in the arms of the nurse; providentially, however, all the party escaped without any further

injury than a pretty considerable alarm; the Duke immediately instituted a search for the offender, but when it was found that the circumstance had arisen from mere carelessness, his Royal Highness, with his accustomed benevolence, interceded for the trembling culprit, and procured his pardon upon a promise of desisting from such dangerous sport in future.

The uneasiness occasioned by this trifling incident was soon forgotten, and all things returned to their usual channel in the royal residence. The period, however, was now fast approaching which was painfully to dissolve the short-lived happiness of this domestic circle. The fond husband, the tender father, was about to be snatched from the bosom of his family; and to the sounds of mirth and music were to succeed the tears and lamentations of the disconsolate widow and the bereaved household. But this sad scene was yet concealed in the bosom of futurity, and the new year was welcomed with gladsome and grateful hearts by the inhabitants of Woolbrook Cottage. It opened indeed with every prospect of increasing blessings for the royal pair; but, alas! how little do we know what one short year, or even one day or hour may bring forth.

DEATH OF THE DUKE OF KENT.

It is remarkable that the illness which led to the premature death of the Duke of Kent was chiefly attributable to his extreme fondness for his only

babe. Having taken a long walk in the beautiful environs of Sidmouth on a fine but damp morning, his Royal Highness returned home with his feet completely wet. Immediately on entering the house he was greeted with the smiles of the infant Princess, which unfortunately so strongly attracted him, that it was long before he could persuade himself to leave her; Captain Conroy, who had been the companion of his walk, intreated him to change his boots and stockings, and his anxious wife repeatedly urged him to do so. Again and again he resigned his interesting plaything to the arms of her nurse, but each time the little hands extended towards him, and the lip imploringly put down, induced him to renew the game at romps in which a lively infant so much delights, and which is generally papa's bribe to a decided preference. Thus all precautionary measures were delayed until he retired to dress for dinner; a severe cold was the immediate consequence, but the Duke was so little used to illness, and placed so much reliance upon the strength of his constitution, that the first symptoms were neglected, and it was not till inflammation had laid strong hold upon his chest that medical assistance was resorted to. At length, however, Sir David Dundas and Dr. Maton were summoned from London, but all their efforts were unavailing; the disease rapidly increased and terminated fatally within about a fortnight from the first attack.

Prince Leopold, who was visiting the Earl of Darnley at Cobham Hall, Kent, no sooner received

the first intelligence of his brother-in-law's alarming illness, than he instantly departed for Sidmouth to support his beloved sister under the severe trial that awaited her, and to assist in the melancholy task of soothing the last moments of the Duke. His Royal Highness arrived at Woolbrook Cottage about two o'clock on Saturday the 22d of January, and never afterwards quitted the chamber of death until the final scene had closed. In the evening, the Duke was sufficiently collected to give instructions for drawing up a will, by which he appointed the Duchess, his beloved wife, sole guardian of their only child, the Princess Alexandrina-Victoria, and left the whole of his property to his executors, General Wetherall and Captain Conroy, in trust for the Duchess, to be disposed of at her pleasure, for the sole use and benefit of herself and her infant daughter. Having signed this important document with a steady hand, and with the utmost fortitude taken a last farewell of the two objects most dear to him on earth, his Royal Highness resigned himself entirely to the contemplation of a future state ; he remained easy and composed during the night, and experienced, up to the last moment, the tenderest consolations from his illustrious consort. With his last breath he prayed for the divine blessing upon her and her infant offspring ; and in her arms calmly expired at ten o'clock in the morning of Sunday, the 23d of January, 1820. The attention of the surrounding mourners was now entirely devoted to the weeping consort ; she was

gently withdrawn from the bedside of her departed lord, by which she had watched for five successive nights, and soothed and supported by the affectionate assiduities of her brother. In the moment of trial, Prince Leopold proved himself indeed a husband to the widow, and a father to the fatherless. On the little orphan, and on his elder niece, whom this sad event had deprived of a second father, he bestowed the most tender care, while the afflicted Duchess found her sole comfort in his society. With true Christian piety, he poured the healing balm of faith and hope upon her wounded spirit; with fortitude and alacrity he relieved her from all responsibility, and made every arrangement which her distressing situation required.

The unexpected news of the Duke's decease, was everywhere received with deep regret and sorrow; a general sympathy was excited for the situation of the interesting Duchess, thus suddenly separated from her beloved husband; and for her beautiful infant, so early deprived of the paternal protection. But, in the vicinity of Sidmouth, the gloom and depression were very great. Scarcely one month had elapsed since the arrival of the royal pair and their interesting children had been hailed with enthusiastic delight; and even but a few days back, their presence had shed cheerfulness and pleasure upon the surrounding scene; now, all was changed! the shops were closed; the ensigns of mourning alone were visible, and every eye was suffused with tears as it rested on Woolbrook Cottage, so lately the mansion of happi-

ness, but now the silent abode of mourning and death.

RETURN TO KENSINGTON PALACE.

MEASURES were immediately taken for the removal of the Duchess from the scene of her affliction; and, accordingly, but two days after the lamented death of her royal consort, she quitted Sidmouth amidst the respectful sympathy of all classes. The little Princess Victoria, with her nursery suite, occupied the first carriage of the royal *cortège*, and was placed at its window to receive the mournful adieus of the spectators. She looked round upon them with her cheerful open countenance, playing her little hand upon the glass, totally unconscious either of her irreparable loss or the general grief. The sight was deeply affecting, and the attractions of the lovely babe, whose connection with the people had been drawn closer by the death of her illustrious parent, were not a little increased by the observation of her great resemblance to the Princess Charlotte of Wales when at her age.

The Duchess followed, accompanied by her brother Prince Leopold, in the Prince's travelling chariot. In the third carriage were the Princess Feodore and her governess. Four more were filled with the attendants of the royal party. They slept at Ilminster, and on the following morning, pursued their route to Salisbury. On their arrival at the bishop's palace in that city, at about six o'clock in

the evening, the Duchess's health was found to have suffered so much from affliction and fatigue, and from her extreme solicitude for the infant Princess, who had travelled the greater part of the day in her arms, that it was necessary to shorten the future stages of the journey; and, at the earnest request of the Bishop, her Royal Highness rested under his hospitable roof during the whole of Thursday. Early on Friday morning, the royal travellers again started, and slept that night at Harford Bridge. On Saturday they breakfasted with the Duke and Duchess of Gloucester at Bagshot Park, and reached their solitary abode at Kensington Palace in safety, between two and three o'clock. Prince Leopold immediately proceeded to Carlton House to relate to the Prince Regent all the circumstances attending the last hours of his departed brother; and was in return, the bearer of the Regent's affectionate condolence to his widowed sister.

DEATH OF GEORGE THE THIRD.

ON this day, January the 29th, 1820, it was that the venerable King George the Third, was summoned from this mortal life, to, we may hope, a bright inheritance in heaven. The melancholy seclusion in which the last ten years of his life were past, had, by withdrawing him from the eyes of his subjects, greatly lessened the sensation caused by this event.

The period which elapsed between the arrival of the Duchess of Kent at Kensington Palace, and the double royal funeral, was passed by the disconsolate widow in the most retired privacy ; every member of the royal family was assiduous in affectionate attention, but the Prince Leopold and the Duchess of Clarence especially, passed many hours daily in administering to the consolation and comfort of their afflicted relative.

ADOPTION BY THE DUKE OF YORK.

At the first visit paid by the Duke of York to the Duchess of Kent at Kensington Palace, after her melancholy bereavement, the following interesting incident occurred. The Duke having inquired for his infant niece, she was no sooner, in compliance with his desire, brought into the room, than, recognising, it is supposed, his great resemblance to her deceased father, she stretched out her little arms towards him, and called him Papa. The Duke was greatly affected, and clasping her to his bosom, promised to be indeed a father to her. This promise, as far as circumstances would admit, he always faithfully observed ; he watched with paternal solicitude over the growth and early education of the interesting orphan, and was repaid by her infantine love and gratitude, particularly exemplified in his Royal Highness's last illness, when she visited him daily, always carrying in her hand a beautiful

bouquet of choice flowers, with which the Duke delighted to decorate his private sitting-room, until it was replaced on the following day by a fresh supply from her own store of sweets.

THE DUCHESS HER DAUGHTER'S GUARDIAN.

THE grave at length closed over the lamented Duke of Kent, and a new scene opened to his royal widow. Her duties as a wife she had discharged in the most pious and exemplary manner ; these alas ! were ended, but her duties as a mother yet remained ; for to her guardianship was confided the infant and interesting hope of the House of Brunswick, on whom, even at this early period, the eyes of the people rested with no ordinary feelings and anticipations. Of the manner in which the sacred pledge has been redeemed, it is not for us presumptuously to speak ; suffice it to say, that mother and child are enthroned together in the best affections of a loyal and grateful people.

PRINCE LEOPOLD'S EQUIPAGE.

THE daily airings of the royal infant were now recommenced, and as Prince Leopold's carriage was used for this purpose during the first few weeks of close mourning, the equipage attracted much attention. Every day, between one and two o'clock, his

Royal Highness's dark green chariot, drawn by four beautiful greys, with two postilions, and one or two outriders, was in waiting at Kensington Palace, and the little Princess, with her two female attendants, regularly drove in this style two or three times round Hyde-Park, when, if a peep at her pretty smiling face could occasionally be caught by the walkers there, it was a source of high gratification.

PARLIAMENTARY ADDRESSES.

THE two Houses of Parliament took the earliest opportunity of marking their respect for the memory of the departed Duke, and for the character of his surviving consort, by voting an address of condolence to the latter on the severe loss which her Royal Highness and the country had sustained. The Duchess received these addresses with the infant Princess in her arms, on Monday, the 21st of February, in the drawing-room at Kensington Palace, attended by her household. The various charitable institutions, of which the Duke of Kent had ever been the active patron and steady friend, were not dilatory in following the example of the assembled lords and commonalty of the land; and numerous were the resolutions passed in committees of these societies, condoling with the royal lady, and "praying for the blessing of heaven upon her future life, and upon that interesting scion of the renowned stock of

Brunswick, her infant daughter." Some of these addresses the Duchess graciously condescended to receive in person; and whenever this was the case, the deputation attending were invariably indulged with a sight of the infant Princess, who, sometimes pressed to the bosom of her mother, sometimes actively sporting in the arms of her nurse, never failed to excite feelings of the deepest interest, and to elicit from all present a renewed supplication for the peculiar protection of Heaven upon the widow and the orphan.

EARLY IMPRESSIONS.

THE sweet impression of paternal love was not, it appears, easily effaced from the recollection of the infant Princess; full six months after the death of the Duke of Kent, a marble bust of his Royal Highness, executed by Turnerelli, having been brought home, the Duchess, with her infant in her arms, entered the room, when the child on seeing it clapped her hands together, and joyfully exclaimed, "Papa, papa!" There were several persons present who were astonished at the influence of the bust on the royal infant. The Duchess, greatly affected at this touching incident, retired for a few moments to give vent to her feelings.

INFANTINE ACUTENESS.

THE following interesting description of the Princess at the age of fifteen months has been supplied from an authentic source. "Walking one day in Kensington Gardens, accompanied by my sister, we were fortunate enough to meet quite unexpectedly with the infant Princess Victoria, whom we had never before seen. She was riding in a very elegant child's phaeton, painted a bright yellow, and bearing upon the panels the initials and coronet of the young Princess. Her Royal Highness was tied into it by a broad black ribbon round her waist; the carriage was drawn, when we first saw it, by the Princess Feodore, and two ladies were in attendance. On approaching the dear child, she immediately noticed us by the name of 'lady;' we walked, by permission of her attendants, alongside the carriage for a considerable distance, which appeared to please her Royal Highness greatly, as she never once turned her face from us, but continued talking the whole time very distinctly, and with great intelligence for her age. She noticed with vivacity every thing that passed, and continually addressed us as 'lady,' looking after us whenever we fell a little behind her chaise, as though unwilling to part company. Having had cause to regret on this interesting occasion that we had not had some trifling toy, with which we might have amused and pleased the Princess, we determined when we next walked to

Kensington Gardens to be better provided ; we accordingly took with us, about three weeks afterwards, a little spun glass lancer on horseback ; and although we were not so fortunate as before, for the young Princess was not in the garden, we found an opportunity of presenting it at the palace door, as she was lifted out of the carriage on returning from her airing. The humble offering was courteously accepted by the amiable and estimable Baroness de Spaedth, while the little Princess, looking first at us, and then at the toy, seemed highly pleased, and was about to take it out of my hand with her little gentle and delicate fingers, but the nurse interposed, saying, 'If you give it to the Princess, it will be broken in a minute.' A few days afterwards, passing through the court of the palace, the young Princess again overtook us on her return from her usual airing. The window of the carriage was drawn up, notwithstanding which, our little darling had no sooner seen us, than to our great surprise, she assumed the most intelligent smile of recognition, and turning quickly to her nurse, said in a loud and authoritative tone, 'lady.' The Princess having been lifted out, and carried into the hall in the arms of the Baroness de Spaedth, her nurse returned to the door, and requested us to walk in, 'to have the honour of kissing the Princess's hand.' We did so accordingly, and the Baroness Spaedth, addressing herself to us, said, 'The Princess knew you were to be invited to kiss her hand, and she pointed you out to me the moment she saw you.'

Surely this was a most extraordinary instance of acuteness in so very young an infant. The interesting child called us 'lady' repeatedly during the short conversation which the Baroness kindly held with us, and seemed perfectly to understand that it was we who gave her the man and horse, for which she was frequently desired to thank us, but apparently a little too wilful to obey the mandate, she merely smiled, and looked very arch. She held out her pretty, fair, fat, little hand to be kissed with the utmost grace and dignity ; and on our taking leave some minutes after the subject had been mentioned, said of her own accord, 'thank you,' most 'plainly and distinctly. She was at this period a beautiful child, bearing a very strong resemblance to her father, and indeed to the royal family generally. Though small and delicately formed, she was very fat, and might be called a remarkably fine child for her age ; her eyes were large and blue ; her complexion extremely fair, with a rosy colour, expressive of high health, and her curled lips continually parted, shewed her four pretty white teeth. She was forward in her speech ; very lively, and appeared of a gentle, happy temper ; occasionally a sweet and merry smile animated her intelligent countenance. She was dressed in a white cambric pelisse neatly frilled at bottom, and a large straw bonnet, trimmed with black ribbons. We were informed by her nurse, that she did not yet run alone, indeed she was not entirely short coated until more

than a year old, doubtless to prevent her being placed upon her feet too early."

EDUCATED BY PRINCE LEOPOLD.

VERY shortly after the meeting of the new parliament upon the accession of George the Fourth, Lord Castlereagh informed the House of Commons, that, owing to his Royal Highness Prince Leopold having generously and affectionately undertaken all the expense of supporting and educating his infant niece, the Duchess of Kent would not at present require any further provision from the country, although her dower as widow of the Royal Duke amounted to only £6000 per annum. This engagement was kept in the handsomest manner by the Prince as long as the parliament permitted; for, although the Duchess lived in the utmost retirement, her dignity as a member of the royal family was always fully maintained. Her household was established on the most liberal scale; her horses, carriages, and servants were numerous; her charities munificent; her annual visits to the sea side very expensive, and various masters were appointed for the instruction of the Princess at a very early age. Her anxious parent had indeed already begun to take an active interest in the great work of her education, as appears by the permission which Miss Appleton received during this summer, to dedicate to her Royal Highness her volume, entitled, "Early Education, or the Manage-

ment of Children considered, with a view to their future character." This lady was also admitted to a personal interview with the Duchess of Kent and the infant Princess to present her work, which was most graciously received.

PRINCESS ELIZABETH OF CLARENCE.

THE year 1820 closed as it had begun, with an event of the utmost importance to the future expectations and prospects of the Princess Victoria. On the 10th of December, her Royal Highness the Duchess of Clarence was safely delivered of a Princess, who, though prematurely born, was reported by the physicians as likely to live. She was immediately baptised Elizabeth, by command of the King; and the bulletins daily issued of the health of the Royal Duchess and her infant daughter, represented that of the latter as continually improving. This favourable prospect did not, however, last long; the little Princess, who had never acquired sufficient strength to permit of her being taken into the open air, was suddenly attacked with convulsions, and died at her father's residence in St. James's Palace, on the day that she was twelve weeks old. From this time forward, the succession of the Princess Victoria to the throne of Great Britain became every day more probable; and as it was not generally expected that the Duchess of Clarence would have more children, she began to be looked upon with increasing interest by the public at large. Still she

was brought up in so very private a manner, that except to the select few who were in the habit of frequenting Kensington Gardens, and the visitors at the watering-places to which she was annually taken; she was personally but little known for many years; and consequently but little thought of, in comparison to what she might have been had her royal mother been of an ambitious turn, or fond of courting popularity. On the contrary, it is understood that the utmost pains were taken to conceal from the royal child her probable exalted dignity, and to withdraw her from the public observation; at the same time, that she was sedulously taught to treat all classes of her future subjects with respect and courtesy, and was all her life daily shown to those who were really anxious to enjoy the gratification in the most pleasing and unostentatious manner.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS.

THE first anniversary of the Princess Victoria's birth was passed in the privacy induced by the melancholy loss so recently sustained; but the second was celebrated with considerable festivity at Kensington Palace. Every member of the royal family attended to congratulate their infant relative and her fond mother upon this interesting occasion; and from each the little heroine of the day received some trifling present suitable to her years. The Princess was, of course, highly delighted with these various gifts which covered two large tables, and for

some time she cheerfully submitted to the congratulatory compliments which accompanied them ; but before these ceremonies were concluded, she heartily wished her birthday at an end ; and at length, quite overcome with fatigue and pleasure, she had recourse to the mode common amongst less exalted children to express their weariness, and fairly cried herself to sleep. In observing upon the return of the day, the public journals announced that “ Her Royal Highness was a very beautiful and interesting child, and had entered upon her third year with every promise of health, strength, and spirits.”

From this time forward the annual return of this auspicious day was marked by family meetings, held at Kensington Palace or at Marlborough House, the residence of Prince Leopold, when either a concert was given, or some other amusement devised, for the gratification of the young Princess, who likewise received on these occasions a full compliment of toys, and as her years advanced, of more costly mementos of affection from her illustrious relatives.

CORONATION OF GEORGE THE FOURTH.

THE Princess Victoria was too young to be present at the imposing ceremony of the Coronation, which took place on the 19th of July, 1821, but it is a remarkable circumstance that a public writer, in describing the magnificent spectacle which on that day presented itself from the towers of Westminster

Abbey, observed, that the eye, satiated with the gorgeous splendour of the surrounding scenery, wandered beyond it in search of some less dazzling object, until at length it reposed with delight upon the refreshing verdure, the foliage and retirement of Kensington Gardens. At that very moment, cherished in the bosom of that sweet retirement, sporting on those verdant plains, and flourishing under the shadow of that enchanting foliage, was a little being, one day destined to perform the first part in such a ceremony; and small space as she doubtless occupied in the thoughts or recollections of the assembled multitudes, to one heart, at least, the bright vision of futurity would on that memorable day be sometimes present, and frequently would the maternal blessing be wafted to the deserted groves of Kensington, accompanied by an ardent prayer that the royal daughter, with whom it had pleased Providence to cheer her widowhood, might daily advance in loveliness and virtue until she should be presented to her admiring people, the most worthy inheritor, as well as the fairest ornament of that mighty throne, which it seemed her high destiny to fill.

VISIT TO BOGNOR.

THE Duchess and her lovely daughters retired in the month of August to Bognor, where Bognor Lodge, the residence of Sir John Harrington, had been engaged for their accommodation. They spent

the autumn months at this secluded watering-place in great retirement, walking and riding on the sea-shore the greater part of the day, and gathering a store of health for the ensuing winter. The little Princess was also much strengthened by a regular course of sea-bathing, which she appeared to enjoy very much. At the end of October, they returned to Kensington Palace; and Sir William Beechey was employed to paint the royal Duchess and her infant whilst the glow of health remained fresh upon their cheeks. It is a large picture; her Royal Highness is seated on a sofa, and the little Princess stands upon it with her arm round her mother's neck, whilst in her other hand she holds a miniature portrait of the Duke her father.

INTERCOURSE WITH THE PUBLIC IN KENSINGTON GARDENS.

DURING these evanescent but interesting years of early childhood, the little Princess was daily to be seen running about or riding on her donkey in Kensington Gardens, and her intercourse with the visitors there was of a very endearing description. Some anecdotes upon this subject may be well introduced by the following remarks of a correspondent, to the editor of a daily newspaper, when the Princess was nearly three years old :—

“ Passing accidentally through Kensington Gardens, a few days since, I observed at some distance a party, consisting of several ladies, a young child,

and two men-servants, having in charge a donkey, gaily caparisoned with blue ribbons, and accoutred for the use of the infant. The appearance of the party, and the general attention they attracted, led me to suspect they might be the royal inhabitants of the palace; I soon learnt that my conjectures were well founded, and that her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent was in maternal attendance, as is her daily custom, upon her august and interesting daughter, in the enjoyment of her healthful exercise. On approaching the royal party, the infant Princess, observing my respectful recognition, nodded and wished me a ' Good Morning ' with much liveliness, as she skipped along between her mother and her sister the Princess Feodore, holding a hand of each. Having passed on some paces, I stood a moment to observe the actions of the royal child, and was pleased to see that the gracious notice with which she had honoured me was extended in a greater or less degree to almost every person she met; thus does this fair scion of our royal house, while yet an infant, daily make an impression on the hearts of many individuals which will not easily be forgotten. Her Royal Highness is remarkably beautiful, and her gay and animated countenance bespeaks perfect health and good temper. Her complexion is excessively fair; her eyes large and expressive, and her cheeks blooming. She bears a very striking resemblance to her late royal father, and indeed to every member of our reigning family; but the soft beauty, and (if I may be allowed the

term) the dignity of her infantine countenance, peculiarly reminded me of our late beloved Princess Charlotte."

This favourite donkey, a present from the Duke of York, bore his royal mistress daily round the gardens to her great delight; so fond indeed was she of him, and the exercise he procured her, that it was generally necessary to persuade her that the donkey was tired or hungry to induce her to alight.

Even at this very early age, the Princess took great pleasure in mixing with the people generally, and seldom passed anybody in the gardens, when riding either in her little carriage or upon her donkey, without accosting them with, "How do you do?" or "Good morning; Sir," or "Lady;" and always seemed pleased to enter into conversation with strangers, returning their compliments, or answering their questions in the most distinct and good humoured manner. Her Royal Highness was a particular admirer of children, and rarely allowed an infant to pass her without requesting permission to see it close. She always expressed great delight at meeting a young ladies' school, had something to say to most of the children, but particularly distinguished the younger ones. When a little older, it was exhilarating to witness her infantine activity, as, holding her sister Feodore in one hand, and the string of her little cart in the other, with a moss rose fastened into her bosom, she would run with astonishing rapidity the whole length of the broad gravel

walk, or up and down the green hills with which the gardens abound, her eyes sparkling with animation and glee, until the attendants, fearful of the effects of such violent exercise, were compelled to put a stop to it, much against the will of the little romp; and although a large assemblage of well dressed ladies, gentlemen, and children, would, on such occasions, form a semicircle round the scene of amusement, their presence never seemed in any way to disconcert the royal child; who would continue her play, occasionally speaking to the spectators as though they were partakers in her enjoyment, which, in very truth, they were. If, whilst amusing herself in the enclosed lawn, she observed, as sometimes happened, many persons collected round the green railing, she would walk close up to it, and curtsy and kiss her hand to the people, speaking to all who addressed her; and when her nurse led her away, she would again and again slip from her hand, and return to renew the mutual greetings between herself and her future subjects, who, as they contemplated with delight her bounding step and merry healthful countenance, the index of a heart full of innocence and joy, were ready unanimously to exclaim,

Long may it be ere royal state
That cherub smile shall dissipate;
Long ere that bright eye's peerless blue,
A sovereign's anxious tear bedew;
Ere that fair form of airy grace,
Assume the regal measured pace;

Or that young, open, cloudless brow,
With truth and joy that glitters now,
The imperial diadem shall wear
Beset with trouble, grief, and care.

The following is an extract from a private letter, written in January 1822 :—" You inquire if I have lately seen my illustrious little friend the Princess Victoria ; the weather at this time of the year is very unfavourable for her walks and for mine. Wednesday last, however, proving fine, I had the pleasure of meeting her Royal Highness in the gardens, accompanied by the Duchess, Princess Feodore, Lady Spaedth, and the nurse. The young Princess was most curiously dressed in a duffield cloak, lined with pink, made to fit her, and reaching quite to the ground. I could not help laughing at her grotesque appearance, as she walked slowly along, holding her cloak quite tight with her two little hands. The Duchess, who was stooping down, endeavouring to arrange it more commodiously for her, seemed as much amused as I was, and observed to the Baroness de Spaedth, ' that she looked like a little match-woman.' She very soon, however, grew tired of her new accoutrement, and complaining of the heat, induced her mother to take it off ; after which, she ran about much at her ease in the gravel walk, bearing a very altered appearance ; her dress as now exhibited, consisting of a purple velvet pelisse most elegantly made, and a very becoming white beaver bonnet ; she looked extremely beautiful. On seeing me, the Princess, as usual, wished me a good morn-

ing ; I wished her Royal Highness many happy new years, to which she replied with a sweet smile, ' And I wish you a happy new year too.'

" One day walking with her sister, she met a little girl, something younger than herself, who had hold of her mother's hand. The Princess curtsied to the mother, who returned the salute, then to the child, who took no notice ; she curtsied again, but the little creature stood still. ' Make a curtsy to me, baby,' said the Princess ; ' why dont you make a curtsy to me ?' and after repeating her desire several times unavailingly, she turned away, saying in a pitying tone to her sister, ' Poor baby, she cant make a curtsy, she wont speak.' "

ARCHNESS.

SOME ladies who were much in the habit of walking in Kensington Gardens, and were delighted with the opportunity thus afforded of frequently seeing the little Princess, perceiving that she was very fond of flowers, seldom failed to present her with a small nosegay, which was accepted with pleasure, until her Royal Highness began to look upon it as a matter of course, and would ask for her flowers as soon as the ladies appeared ; but this she was told by her governess she must not do, but wait till they were offered to her. It happened a short time after this that the ladies were seen without the usual *bouquet* ; and the Princess, knowing that she was not to ask for it, and chancing at the moment to meet a little

girl with a reticule in her hand, addressed her with, "Little girl, have you any flowers in that bag?" at the same time glancing her blue eye towards the ladies who had disappointed her, with a very merry and arch expression.

Her Royal Highness was one day met upon her walk by the late Bishop Fisher of Salisbury, who affectionately saluted her, but without attracting her attention ; his lordship repeated "How do you do, my Princess?" still she took no notice. He then spoke to the attendants, and entreated her Royal Highness's attention ; he even went on one knee to court it, and the ladies threatened the Duchess's displeasure if she did not speak to the bishop, but all in vain ; the wilful child made her escape at the earliest opportunity, and running as fast as her little legs would carry her till she was fairly out of reach, she then turned round, and with a quick and graceful air, kissed her hand repeatedly to the venerable prelate.

AN INFANTINE DIALOGUE.

THE Princess's nosegay acquaintances were one morning, when she was between three and four years old, gratified with a longer conversation than usual with her Royal Highness, who was playing on the lawn ; she came forward with her accustomed curtsy to receive her flowers, and, after the first compliments of greeting, the following dialogue ensued :—

Lady.—I hope you have had a pleasant walk this morning, Princess.

Princess.—Yes, I thank you.

Lady.—Have you been riding on your donkey?

Princess.—No; I have been riding in my little carriage.

Lady.—I wish you good morning, Princess.

But her Royal Highness lingered, and stooping down to her little cart, in which was seated a very large doll, "I will show you my doll," said she, and she took it by one arm, desiring the footman to take the other. "I thank your Royal Highness, it is a very beautiful doll, but it is too big for you to carry." "Yes," she replied; and the ladies having sufficiently admired the doll, with many thanks for her Royal Highness's condescension, again wished her a good morning.

Princess.—But you must say good morning to Lady Spaedth before you go.

It was done; but the Princess still lingered, apparently wishing to continue the conversation; at length she said, "It will be my mamma's birth-day soon."

Lady.—It will so, and I suppose you will have a holiday on that day.

Princess.—Yes.

Lady.—I hear you can speak German, Princess.

Princess.—Yes, I can.

Lady.—Will you be so good as to speak German to me? (The Princess looked down rather shy,)

But I suppose you will wish Mamma joy in German on her birth-day?

Princess.—Yes—(then turning quickly round)—but I must see that baby.

The baby was accordingly brought for her to look at, and the conference ended.

PERSEVERANCE INSTILLED.

IN the haymaking season, the Princess was on the grass every afternoon with her little rake, fork, and cart, industriously employed in collecting the hay, which she would carry to a little distance, and returning fill her cart again. An anecdote has been related with reference to this amusement, which proves, that even in pursuing her recreations, care was taken to turn every little incident to the benefit of her future character. She had one day completely fatigued herself with filling and refilling her cart; and at length threw down her rake when it was but half loaded; her governess immediately desired her to resume it, and to finish filling her cart; she replied she was too tired. "But, Princess, you should have thought of that before you began the last load, for you know we never leave any thing unfinished;" and her Royal Highness was most judiciously persuaded to complete the work she had begun.

Again, riding one day across the garden in her little carriage, a violent storm of wind suddenly arose, and the uncourtly element little regarding the

exalted dignity of the infant heiress of England, very unceremoniously blew her bonnet off her head; the Princess looked surprised and amused, but very handily replaced it; again it nearly flew away; her Royal Highness then appealed to her nurse, saying "It wont stay on,"—"Then hold it tight, Princess," was the reply, and her Royal Highness did so with both her hands, laughing heartily all the way home.

CHARITABLE DISPOSITIONS.

It was pleasing to observe that amongst all the enjoyments her daily recreations afforded, none seemed more truly to gratify the little Princess than the indulgence of her benevolent and compassionate dispositions. A poor man or woman would frequently follow her carriage into the palace court, intreating charity, and the child, long before she could speak plain, would lisp her command to the footman to give sixpence or a shilling to the beggar, which was always done according to her directions. This spontaneous desire to contribute to the welfare of her less fortunate fellow-creatures increased in large proportion to her advancing years. Her royal mother gave ample encouragement to the development of these amiable feelings, both by precept and example; and it is well known that, not only have our public institutions of every description derived the greatest benefit from the generosity and kindness of the Duchess and her royal daughter, but that their private charities have been even more liberal and extensive. Kensington and its neighbourhood

have long found cause to bless the hand which has been stretched out to raise the wretched, and alleviate the sorrows of the afflicted ; and wherever the Duchess and the Princess have taken up their temporary abode, there have the same results been visible. Even in the most distant parts of the country has the name of our Princess been associated with acts of goodness and charity which have endeared it to every heart, less, perhaps, for the intrinsic value of those acts themselves than for the condescension, sweetness, and grace, with which they have invariably been performed.

A DAY AT KENSINGTON PALACE.

THE regularity which pervaded the Duchess of Kent's household, and particularly every thing which related to the royal infant, enables us to give a slight sketch of the manner in which her days were mostly passed. The whole family were early risers, and the Duchess, her daughters, the Baroness de Spaedth, and Miss Lehzen, the governess of the Princess Feodore, met in the breakfast room at eight o'clock in the summer, and in very hot weather even earlier ; in this pretty room, ornamented with paintings of all her children, the Duchess and her family, having paid their morning tribute of prayer and thanksgiving, partook together of their first social meal, the Princess Victoria being seated beside the Duchess, in her elegant little rosewood chair, inlaid with brass, and having before her a small round table

to correspond, upon which her bread, milk, and fruit were placed, whilst her nurse attended upon her. Immediately after breakfast the Princess Feodore retired with her governess to her study; and the little Princess, generally from nine till ten o'clock, mounted her donkey and rode round the gardens; if the weather was unfavourable, a carriage airing at about twelve o'clock was substituted. From ten to twelve the Duchess devoted herself to the instruction of her infant daughter, and much of general, useful, and most important knowledge did the royal pupil imbibe from the lips of her amiable and pious mother. When the morning tasks were over, the Duchess would retire to her private sitting room, in which she pursued her own occupations, Turnerelli's bust of her darling child, at two years old, surmounting the writing desk at which she usually sat; and the little Princess, always accompanied by her affectionate nurse, Mrs. Brock, whom she would frequently clasp round the neck, and call her "dear, dear Boppy," amused herself with running to and fro through the spacious suite of rooms extending round two sides of the palace; in each of these rooms was to be seen some of her toys—carriages, horses, cows, dolls, baby-houses, models of ships, &c. &c. At two o'clock exactly, she always dined upon the plainest and most wholesome fare, the Duchess and her eldest daughter taking their luncheon at the same time; after dinner, the lessons were again resorted to till about four o'clock, when the Duchess would either take her two

children to visit some members of the royal family, or some favoured friend amongst the nobility ; or they would take a lengthened airing in a carriage and four ; after which, the infant Princess would come out with her little chaise to ride and walk alternately in Kensington Gardens ; sometimes indeed, when the weather was very fine, the family party would spend the whole afternoon under the trees upon the lawn, and seldom return to the house till near the Duchess's dinner hour, which was seven o'clock. When her Royal Highness sat down to dinner, the Princess Victoria was seated in her little chair, at her right hand, the nurse standing behind her, and took her bread and milk for supper ; when she had completed her meal, she was allowed to leave the table, and Mrs. Brock played with her in the same room, till the Duchess's dinner was over, when the Princess returned to partake of the dessert, and this was always the case whether the Royal Duchess had company or not. The Princess Sophia frequently joined the party in the evening ; and about nine o'clock the royal child was taken to her beautiful little French bed, on one side of her mother's larger one, whilst the Princess Feodore occupied a third, at the other side ; the nurse sleeping in a small room immediately adjoining. Thus may this exemplary mother be truly said to have spent her whole life in domestic association ; and it is believed to be a fact, that from the time of the Duke's death until the Queen's accession, her Majesty had been scarcely ten minutes together out

of the sight of the Royal Duchess, either by day or night, except in her infant years during her daily airing, and on the very rare occasion of her Royal Highness dining with any member of the royal family. The Princess's nurse, like all other nurses, was sometimes glad of a holiday, and on these occasions the Duchess herself always undressed her lovely babe. After the Princess was in bed, the Duchess would frequently visit the Opera, and sometimes the other theatres.

INTRODUCTION AT COURT.

THE King, George the Fourth, presented the Princess Victoria, on her fourth birth-day, with a superb token of remembrance, a miniature portrait of himself, most richly set in diamonds; and very shortly afterwards, his Majesty issued cards of invitation for a state dinner party, signifying to the Duchess of Kent his wish that her infant daughter should accompany her, and be presented to the assembled guests in the drawing-room, before they adjourned to the royal banquet. Their Royal Highnesses accordingly arrived at Carlton House in state, at half-past six o'clock on the appointed evening; were received with all the honours due to royalty, and conducted immediately to the drawing-room. The King expressed himself greatly delighted with his little niece, who was now introduced to him for the first time since she was a year old, and remained with his Majesty about half an hour, during which time,

her engaging and interesting manners, the result of a lively, affectionate disposition, were displayed to great advantage. The company present were also much gratified with the opportunity thus afforded of seeing the royal child, whom they could not but look upon with the deepest interest as their probable future sovereign. She was greatly admired by them all, as well she might be, for she was certainly at this period, extremely beautiful. The gradual opening of her infant mind under the superintendence of her gifted mother, was beginning to take marked effect upon her blooming countenance ; her features daily acquired strength, intelligence, and expression ; and, although but just emerging from the cradle, her carriage had already assumed that erectness and dignity for which some of her family are so remarkable. Her Royal Highness appeared simply dressed in a plain white frock, the short sleeve of her left arm being looped up, and fastened with her uncle's beautiful birth-day gift.

THE FAVOURITE DONKEY.

THE Princess was full of joyful anticipation on the morning of this memorable visit ; " I am going," said she, " to see the King !" and turning to her royal parent, she naïvely asked, " Oh mamma, shall I go upon my donkey ?" Her donkey, be it remembered, was the present of her beloved uncle, the Duke of York, and the greatest treasure she then possessed in the world ; the king had never seen it,

and with infantine simplicity, she believed that she could not pay her royal uncle a greater compliment than to visit him on her favourite "Dickey."

EDUCATION COMMENCED.

SHORTLY after the Princess had completed her fourth year, her mother, considering it necessary that some reverend gentleman of the Church of England should be appointed to superintend her present English, and future classical and religious studies, took great pains to engage one in every way suitable and competent to this responsible and honourable office; at the recommendation of the Rev. Thomas Rennell, the late highly gifted vicar of Kensington, the Rev. George Davys, now Dean of Chester, was appointed preceptor to her Royal Highness, and has continued from that time to the period of her accession, to perform his important duties to the high satisfaction of their late Majesties, and of the Duchess of Kent. Mr. Davys found his royal pupil well grounded in all the acquirements suited to her age, quick, intelligent, and generally very docile, but not much given to application; and occasionally wilful, owing probably to the extreme indulgence to which she was accustomed, and of which the Duchess of Kent herself sometimes complained; observing that the ladies of the household *would* spoil her little girl, an evil which she did not exactly know how to remedy. The extreme sweetness of her temper, however, prevented this indul-

gence from being attended with any really injurious effect, and when counteracted, as her years advanced, by her own strong sense, and particularly by her high respect and affection for her royal mother, it probably only tended to increase the natural warmth of her disposition, without any accompanying evil consequences.

THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE.

THE childhood — it might be almost said the infancy — of the Princess, displayed those hereditary traits of character, which, as they contributed in a great degree, under judicious discipline, to form the woman, cannot but be looked back upon, even now, as most pleasing reminiscences. One, not the least in importance of these traits, always reminded those connected with her of her revered grandfather; it was that restlessness in the pursuit of knowledge for which King George the Third was so greatly distinguished. In Victoria, thirst for information arose with the dawn of reason, and no object could present itself, even to her infant fancy, without incurring the certainty of a rigid examination; in the construction of a toy, or the composition of the simplest elements of art or science, the *cause* as well as the *effect*, was sure to engage the attention of the child; and it is not to be supposed that the grateful task of unfolding such mysteries could be confined to the recognised preceptors of her Royal Highness. Accordingly, there was not an individual about the

person of the Princess at this early period, who did not daily contribute in a greater or less degree to her juvenile stock of information ; while many are the faithful domestics of the establishment, who delight to revel in the memory of those happy hours, which invariably expire with the age that gives them birth.

CORRECT PRONUNCIATION.

THE very striking manner in which the Queen has delivered all public addresses since her accession to the Throne, and particularly those splendid specimens of elocution, her speeches to her Parliament, naturally induces an observation upon the extremely distinct and correct pronunciation of her native language, for which she has been remarkable from her earliest infancy, and upon which subject a curious anecdote occurred at about this period. A little girl of her own age, was one day indulged by a walk in Kensington Gardens for the purpose of seeing the little Princess, of whom she had heard much, and was enthusiastically fond. She met the Princess on her donkey ; her Royal Highness, always attracted by children, stooped down to speak to little Margaret, and the child proudly presented her future Queen with a pretty nosegay of fresh flowers, which was graciously accepted. The next morning breakfasting with her papa, and relating all the pleasures of the preceding day ; her father asked her if the Princess was pleased

with her flowers, and whether she said "thank ye" for them ;—"No Papa," replied the observant little girl, "the Princess did not say *thank ye*, she said I THANK YOU."

RAMSGATE AND TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

FOR several ensuing summers, during the early childhood of the Princess, these two agreeable watering places were alternately chosen by the Duchess of Kent, for the temporary residence of her family ; and the inhabitants were equally gratified by the substantial benefits derived from these royal visits, and by the opportunity they afforded of becoming intimately acquainted with the person, manners, and disposition of the Heiress Presumptive to the British Throne. Townley House, Ramsgate, was engaged for the present season, and early in August the Duchess with her daughters and household embarked from the Tower on board the *Hero* steam-packet, which was splendidly fitted up for the occasion. It was a lovely morning, and as the *Hero* quitted her moorings and slowly receded from the shore, the scene was truly interesting ; the band struck up "God save the King," the whole royal party, amounting to more than fifty persons, rose and stood facing the people, the Duchess in front, holding the hand of her lovely child, who with a sorrowful air nodded and curtsied continually to the spectators. The assembled multitudes eagerly watched the progress of the vessel, until it was

completely lost behind the crowd of others on the river, and some there were who followed it with their most heartfelt prayers for a safe and pleasurable voyage to the august passengers, and for blessings upon the interesting object of their hopes, until she should be restored to her native groves improved in health and intelligence.

At Ramsgate, an immense concourse of people were assembled on the pier to welcome the arrival of the royal visitors, who immediately entered their carriage, and drove slowly to Townley House through crowded ranks of respectable persons; the streets decorated with oak boughs and laurels. Their Royal Highnesses were received in every part of the town by the loyal and heartfelt congratulations of the multitude; the Duchess bowed repeatedly, and most graciously in acknowledgment of these loud tokens of respect; the Princess Feodore smiled affably on all around her, and the infant Princess Victoria, placed at the carriage window, formed by no means the least attracting object of the group. No sooner had the royal party alighted at Townley House, than the sweet little Princess, drawn by the cheerfulness and novelty of the scene, and probably gratified by the notice bestowed upon her, appeared in the balcony, and waved her little hand with vivacity and grace to the throng greeting below.

POPULARITY AT RAMSGATE.

THE amiable and condescending manners of the Royal Duchess rendered her speedily very popular at Ramsgate, and the little Princess, during her several visits to this favoured watering-place, became quite the delight of both inhabitants and visitors. She always appeared in the enjoyment of excellent health and high spirits ; and when the weather was favourable, she was constantly to be seen twice a day upon the sands, in the morning on her donkey, and in the afternoon on foot, always attended by her governess, and one or two men servants, and sometimes accompanied by her mother and sister. She frequently amused herself in the afternoon by digging on the sands with a spade, and throwing the stones into the sea with her hands, which she would afterwards wash in the spray. When tired, she would seat herself upon a camp stool opposite the sea, and after a short rest, return again to her labours so intently, as not to observe anything that was passing round her, and in no way discomposed by the spectators, who would assemble in large groups to witness her recreations. She would sometimes run up to her ankles in the sea, wearing thick shoes over her boots. Her Royal Highness was occasionally permitted to play with the children of the gentry, whom she met upon the beach ; but if she attempted to take unfair advantage of her exalted

rank, the ladies in attendance always interfered to set her right.

ACUTE OBSERVATION.

THE young Princess was remarkable for the habit of fixing her large blue eyes on the face of any persons who attracted her attention, and looking at them steadily, or as some people have expressed it, staring at them, as if desirous of impressing their features upon her memory; and she was observed to possess the faculty peculiar to her family of recollecting every body she had once seen; but the names belonging to the faces of her acquaintances would sometimes escape her recollection, and she one day walked up to a strange gentleman, the father of a little girl whose name she had accidentally heard, and looking up in his face, said in the most engaging tone, "Will you be so good, sir, as to tell me the name of that little girl, for I have quite forgotten it?"

Walking, on another occasion, with her royal mother, whose hand she held, she inquired with earnestness, "Mamma, why do all the gentlemen take off their hats to me; they do not to sister Feodore?"

Running once very fast upon the sands, her foot slipped and she fell; a gentleman, who was close at the moment, assisted her to rise; the Princess thanked him in the most graceful and engaging manner; and, on his expressing a hope that she was not

hurt, gaily exclaimed, "Oh no ! I am not hurt, but mamma will say the Princess of England should not be so giddy."

AFFECTION FOR HER MOTHER.

AN anecdote was current at this period, which is deserving of record here, as affording an interesting proof of the remarkably amiable and affectionate disposition of the little Princess. and particularly of the strong attachment to her mother which has always formed a striking feature in her character. The royal party one day honoured Sir William Garrow with a visit, at his residence at Pegwell Bay, and were conducted by the host over his house and grounds ; amongst other curiosities, was a fine marble bath, which the young Princess, in her eagerness to examine, approached so close, that, losing her balance, she fell in ; she of course cried loudly, but was no sooner extricated from her unpleasant situation, and found herself once more above ground, than her tears and sobs were interrupted to inquire, " Does mamma know that I am not hurt ?"

AMIALE DISPOSITION.

A LADY, who was well acquainted with the young Princess during her various visits to Ramsgate, reports her as a charming child, very high spirited, and being much indulged, but little disposed to abide by any will but her own ; as an

instance of her amiable and affectionate disposition she related, that being once slightly indisposed for a day or two, the physician in attendance prescribed for her some trifling medicine ; her Royal Highness absolutely refused to take it, and her ladies found it necessary to inform the doctor of the circumstance, upon which he gravely observed, "As that is the case, I must in future discontinue my visits to the Princess, as they are altogether useless, unless her Royal Highness will conform to my rules for her health." The child, who was fond of the doctor and partial to his visits, as he had always some laughable story ready for her amusement, made no reply, but was apparently busied in considering the subject, until he rose to depart, when, in the most earnest manner, she petitioned him to return, saying, "Do pray, doctor, come and see me again ; indeed, indeed, I will take my medicine properly in future." This request was of course willingly complied with, and the royal promise was not forgotten.

RETURN TO LONDON.

DURING her residence at Ramsgate the Duchess had the gratification of receiving a visit from her son, Prince Charles of Leiningen, who arrived in England just in time to keep his birthday, which was celebrated by a somewhat larger party than usual at the palace, when the prince and his sister led off the dance, and were followed by all the younger

part of the company present. The period too soon arrived for the departure of their Royal Highnesses, and they left Ramsgate early in October, on their return to town, amidst the respectful adieus and sincere regrets of both inhabitants and visitors. They embarked at Margate on board their favourite "Hero," the Duchess requesting that the Royal salute might be dispensed with, as the infant Princess had been alarmed by it on her arrival. The voyage homewards was not so favourable as the former, the weather was cold and windy, the little Princess suffered a good deal from sea sickness, and the recollection of this day was by no means agreeable to her. Their Royal Highnesses were received at the Tower with the same honours as on their departure, and landed at Traitor's Bridge, about half past five o'clock; the wharf and the places adjacent, where a view of the landing could be obtained, were crowded with spectators, who greeted the royal party with a cordial welcome. Their Royal Highnesses proceeded immediately in several carriages to Kensington Palace.

PARLIAMENTARY GRANT.

In the spring of the year 1825, the King sent, through his ministers, a message to Parliament, in which he stated, "that since the period at which a provision had been made for the Duchess of Kent, and for the Duke of Cumberland, Princess Alexandrina-

Victoria, daughter of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, and Prince George, son of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, had been born, and had now attained an age at which it was proper that an adequate allowance should be made for their honourable support and education. His Majesty was therefore desirous of granting an annuity for this purpose, and recommended the consideration of the subject to his faithful Commons." The grant proposed by his Majesty's ministers was £6000 annually to the Duchess of Kent and the Duke of Cumberland respectively, for the education of the young Prince and Princess their children; the proposition as it concerned the Princess was carried unanimously, with many eloquent tributes to the virtues of her royal mother and expressions of deep interest in the welfare of our future Queen. In the House of Lords the Earl of Liverpool observed that the daughter of the late Duke of Kent had, on the death of that illustrious personage, been left under the care of her mother in the midst of circumstances of a most affecting nature, and no provision had yet been made for her support; their Lordships were aware that the income at present enjoyed by the Duchess of Kent did not exceed £6000 a year, and this settlement had been made without any reference to issue. It was at her Royal Highness's discretion to have quitted this country on the death of the Duke of Kent, and thus to have enhanced her limited resources, but

she had preferred to remain here amongst those by whom her husband had been much honoured, and amidst whom her infant first beheld the light. He could say most sincerely that it was impossible more attention should have been given to the Princess than had been by the illustrious lady her mother; "I have had opportunities," said his Lordship, "of observing the conduct of the Duchess of Kent, which is unexampled for propriety, domestic affection, and moral purity."

The Earl of Darnley warmly concurred in the observations of the Earl of Liverpool. "Knowing, perhaps, more of her Royal Highness than most of their Lordships, he could safely say, that she showed herself unexampled in prudence, discretion, and every amiable quality that could exalt and dignify the female character."

In the House of Commons the Chancellor of the Exchequer said, "that as far as her education had proceeded, the young Princess had been exceedingly well brought up, the greatest pains had been taken with her; she had been reared with that attention to manners, morals, and piety which became her condition. She had moreover been taught to entertain a becoming sense of her own dignity and the rank which perhaps awaited her; these were made cardinal points in her education."

EDUCATION ENLARGED.

THE Princess having now reached an age at which she was capable of benefiting by the instructions of professors in various branches of study, her establishment was placed immediately after the announcement of this additional grant, upon a considerably enlarged scale; and the public were pleased to observe, from the new official appointments, that native talent chiefly was put in requisition for the education of the infant Heiress. The Princess Feodore having nearly completed her eighteenth year, resigned her beloved governess, Miss Lehzen, whose valuable services were rewarded by an appointment to the same responsible situation about the person of the British Princess.

The Rev. Mr. Davys still superintended the general rudiments of learning, but devoted his attention especially to her religious studies, her pious mother being determined to erect the fair fabric of her education upon the broad and firm basis of Christianity; Mr. Steward, the writing master of Westminster School, was engaged to teach her writing and arithmetic; Madame Bourdin, dancing; and Mr. J. B. Sale, at the particular desire of the King, was appointed her music master; in the latter department her Royal Highness already exhibited the taste and talent hereditary in her family; she sang "God save the King" most sweetly for the

gratification of her royal relatives assembled at Marlborough House in her honour, on the day that she completed her sixth year.

THE BARONESS LEHZEN.

THE first governess of the Princess Victoria, who, even to the present moment, maintains a considerable, though not undue influence over the royal mind, was early in life the companion and friend of the Duchess of Kent, whom she accompanied to this country as instructress of the Princess Feodore; and one better adapted to fill the important situation to which she was newly appointed could scarcely have been selected. However the jealous scruples of our national character might object to placing a foreign lady so near to the person of the future Sovereign, those only who have enjoyed opportunities of judging can sufficiently admire the wisdom of the choice. On the authority of one of this favoured class we state, that this accomplished lady was in every way capable of forming the mind of the Heiress Presumptive for the exalted station she now occupies; that she was indefatigable in her endeavours to do so; and that with a perseverance and tact almost unexampled, she never failed to take advantage of the slightest incident occurring in her constant and habitual intercourse with the Princess, which could by any means be turned to her moral or intellectual im-

provement. Her talents, her plain good sense, her piety, her simplicity, and the quietness of her manners, together with her singular knowledge of the world, were strong recommendations to the office of preceptress; and as this appointment had been long contemplated, it is but natural to presume that she had already directed her studies to those peculiar subjects which the future prospects of her royal pupil rendered indispensable. King George the Fourth was so well aware of Miss Lehzen's merits, and so justly appreciated the talent and judgment she displayed in the early tuition of the Princess, that he conferred upon her shortly before his death the title of Baroness in the Kingdom of Hanover, officially notifying that this mark of royal favour was bestowed "in consideration of her distinguished services as Governess to her Royal Highness the Princess Alexandrina-Victoria."

NEEDLEWORK.

AT about this age also, the young Princess took her first lessons in needlework, but was of much too lively a nature to apply very steadily to this sedentary occupation; she would stand by Miss Lehzen's side, and stick in a stitch, then popping down her work on that lady's knee for examination, run like lightning to the window, and after a moment's glance at the animated scene it commanded, return to her employment; then making another stitch, and leaving it again for correction,

she would throw her two arms round her mother's neck, and give her several hearty kisses; or bounding to the piano-forte, strike a few familiar notes; or even snatching up a book, read hastily a line or two; thus blending amusement and instruction, her mind was relaxed after her more serious studies; and although she was thus curiously initiated into this useful art, by means of devoting to it a certain small portion of every day, she became, in the course of time, apt and expeditious in the use of her needle.

PRINCE GEORGE AND PRINCESS AUGUSTA OF CAMBRIDGE.

THE arrival of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, with their infant children, on a visit to this country, was a source of great gratification to the Princess Victoria. The royal cousins frequently visited each other, and the young Prince George, but a few months older than herself, was a delightful playmate for her; the infant Princess Augusta, who was but three years old at this time, could not so readily join in their sports, but she was nevertheless a great favourite with Princess Victoria, who took much pleasure in leading her by the hand, showing her all her little curiosities, and assisting to amuse her. These three interesting children would sometimes play together for two or three hours in Kensington Gardens, accompanied by their attendants, to the great delight of those visitors who

were fortunate enough to witness their artless gambols. They were all invited, as the Princess Victoria had been two years before, to accompany their royal parents to Carlton House, on the occasion of the King giving a magnificent entertainment to the members of his family, the cabinet ministers, great officers of state, and foreign ambassadors. His Majesty received his juvenile relatives with his accustomed affability, introduced them to his guests, and was pleased to express himself greatly delighted with the Princess Victoria's improvement since he had seen her last. The young Prince and Princess of Cambridge were also much admired; they all remained with his Majesty until dinner was announced, when they left the palace attended by their respective governesses.

THE DONKEY CARRIAGE.

DURING this summer, an alteration took place in the style in which the little Princess pursued her exercise in Kensington Gardens. Her donkey, still her chief favourite, was now called upon for double duty; in the morning she mounted him as usual, and took her accustomed round of the gardens, which occupied generally about three quarters of an hour; and in the afternoon, he was again brought out, and handsomely harnessed into the little carriage which the Princess had used from her infancy, shafts having been substituted for the pole by which it was formerly drawn. Her Royal Highness being

duly seated in this elegant little vehicle, the white ribbon reins, and a smart whip were placed in her hands, and thus accoutred, she rode about at her pleasure, a groom leading the donkey, and the ladies of the household walking by her side.

THE DUCHESS DOWAGER OF SAXE-COBURG.

A HIGH gratification was now in store for the young Princess, no less than a visit from her illustrious grandmother, the Duchess Dowager of Saxe-Coburg. Her Serene Highness arrived in England towards the end of July; the Duchess of Kent, accompanied by the Princess Feodore, met her beloved mother on her road from Dover, and conducted her to Claremont, where she was most affectionately welcomed by Prince Leopold, and immediately introduced to her lovely grand-daughter, who had been some time waiting her arrival. The meeting of this family party formed a touching passage in the history of its members; the Duchess of Saxe-Coburg had never before visited England, and the scene of her beloved son's wedded bliss and desolate widowhood, was alike new and interesting to her. The Duchess, her daughter, she had not seen for nearly seven years, and great changes had taken place in her situation and prospects during that lengthened period; the Princess Feodore, whom she had known only as an endearing little girl, had reached the dawn of womanhood, and stood before her in the bloom of health, beauty and

grace. But the infantine charms of that royal grandchild, who might become an object of such vast importance to a great and powerful nation, and through whom she was likely to prove the mother of a line of kings, strongly affected her ; and never was the maternal blessing more impressively pronounced than by this venerable lady, on the head of her fair and august descendant.

For two months the happy family lived in the constant enjoyment of each other's society, their chief residence being at Claremont, from whence they occasionally visited Kensington for two or three days together, when the Duchess of Kent was proud to introduce her virtuous parent to every member of the royal family, and to show her the principal curiosities of London. Together they visited the theatres, exhibitions, and bazaars ; made excursions on the Thames, and took extended airings in the vicinity of the metropolis. When at Claremont, a few select friends were occasionally invited, in order to give the illustrious stranger some idea of the social society of England, but into more formal company her Serene Highness did not enter. Though bordering on seventy years of age, the Duchess was extremely active, rising every morning between six and seven o'clock, frequently walking in the park at Claremont by eight ; she dined regularly at three, and retired to rest between ten and eleven at night. In person, she retained the marks of considerable beauty ; her figure was still erect and dignified, and her countenance remarkably pleasing.

At the beginning of October, her Serene Highness took leave of her beloved daughter and grandchild, on her return to the dominions of her eldest son. Princess Feodore accompanied her grandmother to Germany, on a visit of a few months, attended by the Baroness de Spaedth. Prince Leopold accompanied the illustrious party as far as Calais, and the Duchess of Kent and Princess Victoria returned to Kensington Palace. During the absence of her sister, the young Princess, now the sole object of the Duchess's maternal attention, spent her time constantly with her mother; the Duchess of Clarence was in the habit of spending a day about once in a week or ten days with the Duchess of Kent at Kensington Palace; and on these occasions, the two Royal Duchesses, with the little Princess seated between them, would ride out unattended, or walk in the park and gardens in the most private and unostentatious manner. The Duchess of Clarence was particularly fond of her niece, and always tenderly noticed her, listening to her infantine remarks, and even entering into her childish games with the most affectionate kindness.

THE SEVENTH BIRTH-DAY.

THE 24th of May, 1826, the seventh anniversary of the Princess Victoria's birth, was set apart by Prince Leopold for a fête at Claremont, preparatory to his leaving England on a visit to the Continent. The first ceremonial of the day, however, consisted

in her Royal Highness arraying in new and costly robes, made expressly for the occasion, her large assemblage of waxen and composition dolls, amounting to as many as fifteen, which were all arranged on a long board, with pegs at equal distances, to slip into holes in the feet of the dolls, made on purpose to receive them. This large family, some ladies, some gentlemen, and some children, were generally named after her aunts, uncles, and cousins, who had presented them, and dressed accordingly, a new suit being always prepared for each on the birth-day of their royal mistress. Some of the ladies were also provided with long wigs of natural hair, which her Royal Highness dressed and braided with her own hands, being amply supplied with little combs and brushes suited to the purpose. Thus, even in her most childish play, amusement and usefulness went hand in hand, and the artless little girl was not aware, when with infinite care she was decorating the person of a favourite doll, that she was learning, if not to dress herself, at least to understand how such matters should be set about in the best way, and even to supply to herself the want of an attendant, if in the casualties of life such a necessity should arise. This important affair being completed, the Princess, her mother and sister, with their attendants, left Kensington for Claremont, and spent a long and happy day in the enjoyment of the varied beauties of that sweet retreat ; beauties which were now in their fullest bloom, and which for luxuriance and simplicity are not surpassed in any

park in England; that lovely spot, especially on which stands the Gothic mausoleum, dedicated to the memory of the beloved and lamented mistress of the soil, almost realizes our ideas of an earthly paradise. Here the rose and the lily, the ranunculus, the convolvulus, and the honeysuckle, rival each other in the brilliancy of their hues, and the fragrance with which they embalm the air; whilst the rarer and more delicate productions of the neighbouring conservatory are ranged around by the skilful hand of science; and it may not be irrelevant here, to remark on the liberal kindness by which those who are solicitous for the favour, have been always gratified with a view of this interesting demesne, still maintained in all its beauty, though its illustrious possessor has found other associations and a wider field for his philanthropy, in scenes far removed from that of his first love and early happiness. A select party assembled in the afternoon to congratulate the youthful Princess on the return of her natal day.

THE PONY PHAETON.

AMONGST the costly tokens of respect and affection which awaited her Royal Highness on this occasion, was a pair of remarkably small ponies, of a mouse colour, and an exact match in every respect, brought from the Highlands of Scotland, and presented by the Marchioness of Huntley, now Duchess of Gordon. Her Ladyship was much gratified by

the sweetness with which her offering was accepted, the exuberant delight expressed by the Princess, and her high admiration of the ponies. These pretty little animals were speedily provided with a handsome harness, the plated ornaments of which were embossed with the Princess's coronet and initials; a low, light phaeton was also immediately built, just large enough to hold the young Princess and her governess; a lilliputian postillion, in a neat livery of green and gold, with a black velvet cap, was mounted on one of the ponies, and an outrider on horseback preceded the little equipage. The Princess was quite in love with her new acquisition; and every morning during the summer months, and generally again in the afternoon, she rode round the park or into the country in her favourite vehicle. A portrait of the Princess in her pony phaeton, and an excellent representation of the whole equipage, was, some years ago, drawn on stone by Doyle, and published by Dickinson, of Bond Street.

VISIT TO WINDSOR.

EARLY this summer the Princess Victoria received an invitation, for the first time, from the King, to spend a few days, in company with her royal mother and sister, at the royal lodge in Windsor Park. With a glowing countenance and a heart bounding with anticipated delight, she entered the carriage which was to convey her to the abode of her royal uncle, and arrived there, together

with the Duchess of Gloucester and a select party of the nobility, on Wednesday morning. Nor were her expectations disappointed, the pageantry of the court equipages as they rapidly traversed the green hills of the forest dazzled the eyes and excited the imagination of the enraptured child; a train of carriages conveyed her with the King's party to the magnificent castle; led by his Majesty himself, she made the circuit of the whole range of private apartments, then receiving the last touches from the hands of gilders, burnishers, upholsterers, &c. She was now old enough to understand the noble design upon which this superb suite of rooms had been completed, and young enough too, to be enchanted with the gorgeous magnificence they already exhibited; here she beheld all the appendages of luxury in forms which, even to a child born in a palace, presented no familiar idea, except indeed the realization of the fairy feats of Eastern magicians; she looked on with an admiration which produced great enjoyment to the august owner and creator of this splendid scene. Through drawing-rooms, throne-rooms, and others of equal grandeur, the party passed to the dining-room at the north-east angle of the terrace; and here the noble child's enthusiasm received a new impulse, the glorious prospect which burst at once upon her view

“Of grove, of lawn, of mead,
Whose turf, whose shade, whose flowers among,
Wanders the hoary Thames along
His silver winding way;”

drew forth expressions of almost wild delight, and proved that her young heart was as susceptible to the charms of nature as to the most splendid efforts of art.

Then came all the accompaniments of a royal banquet, the costly service of plate, the long train of attendants in brilliant liveries, the beautiful arrangement of the conservatory, whence issued the inspiring strains of the King's matchless band of wind instruments; and even the luxuries of the table, though her prudent mother did not permit her interesting charge to partake of them, could not fail of strongly affecting her infant mind. Seated between his Majesty and the Duchess, she felt as in a dream, but pleasure, and especially in its excess, easily fatigues; and the happy child, when the hour of retirement arrived, gladly laid her head upon the pillow, and obtained in a peaceful sleep a renovation of spirits for the new but equally exciting enjoyments of the following day.

On Thursday morning the Duchess of Kent, accompanied by the Duchess of Gloucester, took her two daughters to visit the Princess Augusta at Frogmore, when the little Princess had ample opportunity of running about those very pretty gardens, and pursuing the childish sports of which her amiable and light-hearted sister was always willing to be the promoter and companion. On returning to the royal lodge after this pleasant change, Princess Victoria was put into a double-bodied pony phaeton, with her aunt the Duchess of

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STORM
BY J. M. W. TURNER
1804

Gloucester, her sister the Princess Feodore, and the Baroness Von Spaedth, and followed the King, who himself drove the Duchess of Kent in his pony phaeton, attended by all the rest of the numerous party in their usual equipages, in a long tour by Sandpit Gate, nearly round the Lake to the royal marquee at Virginia Water; but alas! the pleasures of life even to the indulged scions of royalty are mutable and delusive, and the little Princess, amongst her new enjoyments, was destined in this instance to show her "Uncle King," for by this familiar title she was accustomed to address his Majesty, that she could endure disappointment with good humour; the sky had become overcast, and scarcely had the cavalcade reached the beautiful spot of the day's intended amusement, than the lowering clouds fell in a close continued rain, which promising no abatement, the royal party were obliged to abandon the evening's sail upon the Lake, and after dining in the marquee to return in close carriages to the lodge.

The next day made amends for this temporary mortification, the weather was delightful, the late rain had refreshed the parched herbage, and the forest rang with the exulting strains of the feathered tribe, while all creation seemed to rejoice in the renewed freshness of the air, and the soft breezes of summer. The Duchess of Gloucester, whose kind heart is always open to the animated joy of childhood, resolved to gratify her young niece with a second visit to the stately castle which had so

strongly rivetted her attention two days before ; she took the Princesses Victoria and Feodore to Frogmore, whence they were accompanied to the castle by the Princess Augusta ; and these royal ladies kindly indulged their young companions with a more leisurely survey both of the state and private apartments than could be obtained amidst the bustle of a court visit ; here then the young Princess gambolled in all the glow of childish spirits through that splendid scene of royal magnificence, which knows no equal in the world, and which is now dedicated to her honour. Many of the pictures in the royal collection attracted her attention ; with the innocent taste of childhood she gazed delighted upon that sweet display of infantine beauty and enjoyment, which many older connoisseurs have noticed with approbation in Copley's lovely picture of George the Third's three youngest daughters ; where the blooming Princess Amelia sits, as many a time the little Victoria has been seen to do, surrounded with flowers in her garden chaise, and drawn by her sisters Mary and Sophia ; the scene is familiar, and the whole expression of the piece calculated to excite the sympathies of youth. A famous picture was also particularly pointed out to her notice, that of the two misers by Matsys, which at about the age which Victoria had now attained so strongly attracted the attention of the late Princess Charlotte, that eight years afterwards she was able to detect an error in the colouring of a print which an amateur had painted from recollec-

tion. "It is long," said the Princess, then about seventeen years of age, "since I have seen the picture, but I am sure the colours of the two men's caps have been changed;" "I, Madam," replied the rather annoyed artist, "saw my copy but just before I undertook the work and I venture to think I have not been mistaken;" the Princess recommended another inspection of the picture, and strange to say the vivid impression of childhood proved correct.

Unwillingly the little Princess took her leave of this proud castle, and proceeded at the appointed hour to the scene of yesterday's hopes and disappointment. The King had already arrived, having driven the Duchess of Kent thither in his pony phaeton, and after partaking of a cold collation the party embarked in the beautiful little frigate *Victorine*, which, though it might be supposed to take its name from the young Princess, was in fact denominated from the interesting ship "*Victory*," from whose crew it was manned by a lieutenant and three seamen. This miniature vessel, though completely rigged and fitted out as a man-of-war, was so very diminutive as to bear when sailing on the lake the appearance of a model. The Princess examined with the eager curiosity of her age every part of this pretty toy, and greatly enjoyed her sail in it for nearly two hours; the King's band attending in their state barge, added the attractions of music to the other gratifications of this delightful excursion. The royal party, after dining in the

marquee, again embarked on the lake, and proceeded to the fishing temple, where coffee was served to them ; and here the young Princess as she gazed with admiration on the beautiful scenery which surrounded her, when illuminated with the rays of the setting sun, could not but sigh at the reflection that time, whose wings even the monarch of England had no power to clip, was rapidly wafting away these hours of pleasure. At nine o'clock his Majesty and his visitors returned to the royal lodge, and shortly afterwards the Princess Victoria retired for the night.

QUICKNESS OF REPARTEE.

ONE day, during her stay at the royal lodge, the King entered the drawing-room leading his little niece by the hand ; the band was stationed as usual in the adjoining conservatory. " Now, Victoria," said his Majesty, " the band is in the next room, and shall play any tune you please ; what shall it be ? " " Oh, Uncle King," replied her Royal Highness with quickness, " I should like God save the King better than any other tune."

Another time, his Majesty asked the Princess which she had most enjoyed of all the amusements she had partaken of during her stay at Windsor ? " The ride I took with you, uncle King," was the ready reply ; his Majesty had once indulged her with a short tête-a-tête airing in his pony phaeton, which he had driven himself.

THE AIR OF COURTS PERNICIOUS.

AT length, however, this fascinating visit drew to a close, and with evident regret the Princess Victoria took leave of her royal uncle, sweetly expressing her thanks for all the gratification he had afforded her. His Majesty, pleased and flattered by the child's artless affection, presented her with a beautiful pair of diamond bracelets, and promised an early renewal of the pleasure she had now enjoyed. Accordingly, during the ensuing years of King George's reign, the Princess generally passed some days of the summer revelling in all the luxury of the stately castle, to which the court very shortly removed, surrounded by regal pomp, magnificence and flattery, and permitted every indulgence which could dazzle the youthful imagination, or lend rapidity to the wings of time; whilst her Uncle King absolutely forbade any contradiction of her inclinations during her visits to him. The judicious mother, however, always shortened these seducing visits as much as in propriety she could; and the country may perhaps have ample reason to rejoice that *the fair Maid of Kent* was in her earliest years so far removed from the direct succession, as to permit of her education on those principles of self-denial, and in that absence of court intrigue and falsehood, which are so essential to forming the infant mind for the dignified and blameless performance of those important duties

imposed by the high destiny to which she was heir. Even in more recent times, when the royal maiden stood on the very step of the throne, her mother, still the sole guardian of her person, has cautiously abstained from permitting her unlimited association with the courtly circle, feeling, doubtless, and perhaps even experiencing from these temporary visits, how pernicious would be its effects upon the ductile heart of youth.

BEHNES'S BUST.

It was shortly after this that the young Princess sat, by the King's desire, to Mr. Behnes for that masterly bust which attracted such general admiration at the exhibition of the Royal Academy. This exquisite model of loveliness and innocence now adorns the costly corridor of Windsor Castle, where it will probably remain for many ages, a proud monument of the dignity and beauty which distinguished the infant years of England's most cherished Queen. In it is strikingly portrayed that peculiarity of carriage, which characterised even the childhood of the Princess, and which is thus alluded to in a poetical address upon her ninth birth-day :

“ They say e'en now thou hast a queenly look,
And walk'st thy palace with majestic gait,
As though each pace thy royal footsteps took
Were conscious that it moved a thing of state :

Thy hand as if it knew a sceptre's weight,
They say, doth wave ; thy brow as if it bore
A regal diadem doth look sedate ;
Yet though of dignity thou hast such store,
Of sweetness infantine thou still possessest more."

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

THE air of Kensington, though mild, is probably not bracing enough for the elastic spirits and robust health of childhood, and regular attention to the studies necessary to her exalted station required, perhaps, rather too much sedentary confinement for one still so young as the lively little Princess ; the failure of that rosy hue which her cheeks always imported from her autumnal excursions, became generally visible towards the ensuing summer, and a comparative repose of the mental faculties, with a corresponding increase of bodily activity, and out-of-door exercise in the open country, has always in that season been recommended by the medical attendants, and adopted by the watchful mother, to strengthen the constitution and confirm the excellent health of the royal child, as most essential to the perfecting of a character, which should in time constitute the happiness of the country. For this purpose, the Duchess of Kent for several successive summers fixed on the beautiful downs overlooking Tunbridge Wells ; and Mount Pleasant House, commanding extensive views of the adjacent country for many miles round, was now engaged for the accommodation of her Royal

Highness and her daughter, with their numerous household. The public are so familiar, either as eye-witnesses, or by elaborate description, with the hearty welcome which always awaits the several branches of our amiable royal family in the towns which they honour with their temporary residence, that it is unnecessary to enter here into any lengthened detail of the loyal acclamations, the triumphal arches, the banners, the illuminations, the fireworks, the music, the bell-ringing, and other joyful demonstrations which these exhilarating occasions invariably call forth. It may be easily imagined, that a visit from persons so important and so interesting as the Royal Duchess and her lovely child, already the country's hope, produced its full share of these signs of gratulation, and the multitudes which flocked from all parts to assist in them, had also their full portion of pleasure. The royal equipages were numerous and showy, and their owners most gracious, and apparently well pleased with their cordial welcome. The Duchess even condescended to walk with her daughters sometimes upon the Parade in the evening, for the purpose of admiring the illuminations. The gay scene was well suited to the buoyant spirits of the youthful object of the general gaze ; she entered heartily into its cheerfulness, and afforded to the loyal inhabitants and visitors of the place, a gratifying opportunity of becoming acquainted with her animated countenance and engaging manners.

Although the Princess Victoria was in good health

when she arrived at Tunbridge Wells, yet she certainly derived great benefit from its salutary waters, and from its scarcely less salubrious air. Whenever the weather allowed, she was abroad a great part of the day, either on foot, or riding on her donkey, or in her pony phaeton. The mornings were usually spent in visiting the seats of different noblemen in the vicinity; and these excursions sometimes gave occasion to joyful assemblages of the country people, who delighted to contemplate the striking features and pleasing demeanour of the interesting young heiress of the crown, whom all agreed in considering a most promising child, whilst observations were very generally made upon her strong likeness to our late venerable sovereign, King George the Third. But the Princess's favourite drive was to Eridge Castle, the residence of the Earl of Abergavenny; she took great pleasure in walking or riding over its romantic grounds, and in contemplating the imposing dignity of its Gothic architecture.

A SPLENDID PRESENT.

THE amiable disposition and interesting manners of the infant Princess, enhanced probably by the beauty of her countenance, so completely won the hearts of the inhabitants of Tunbridge Wells during this visit, that they resolved not to allow her Royal Highness to depart, without offering to her acceptance some durable token of their attachment. They

accordingly presented her, through the medium of Sir John Conroy, and by the permission of her royal mother, with a beautiful specimen of Tunbridge ware and manufacture—a table of kingwood, elegantly inlaid, containing a complete work box and bag, reading desk, writing desk, and painting box, all elaborately furnished, the requisite instruments being of richly chased silver, or fine specimens of various woods. The little Princess returned her gracious thanks for this useful and valuable present, and ever retained a grateful recollection of the kindness of the inhabitants of Tunbridge Wells towards her childhood.

INCREASED POPULARITY.

At the opening of the year 1827 the Princess Victoria advanced a step nearer to the throne, but at the expense of a heavy domestic affliction, in which the whole nation deeply sympathized. The death of the lamented Duke of York, over whose grave the royal child shed her first tears of grief, naturally drew a large share of public attention upon the youthful Princess, whose opening character, for she had nearly completed her eighth year, and was now generally regarded as the probable future Queen, excited considerable interest amongst all classes. Ships, coaches, flowers and fashions now took their names from her, and the people seemed to recur with pride and pleasure to the recollection of those hopes which the prospect of a female

reign had but a few years back so universally elicited; even the separation of the kingdom of Hanover from the British empire was again contemplated with satisfaction, still, however, the same unostentatious retirement marked the course of the interesting subject of these hopes and speculations; the time had not yet arrived when her excellent mother judged she might be advantageously placed before the eyes of the people as a public personage; her present prospects were by no means assured; King George might yet make a second choice, or the Duchess of Clarence once more present the nation with a nearer heir. These prudent considerations, united to a conviction that her early education could be more judiciously prosecuted under the private station she had hitherto occupied, induced the Duchess of Kent, for the present, to keep her daughter's exalted expectations as much in the back ground as possible; the household had all commands never to allude to the subject, and the little Princess, happy in herself and in her family circle, thought little of crowns and sceptres; and it is an interesting fact, that she entertained no suspicion of her regal destiny until very shortly before the death of King George the Fourth, immediately upon which event she became the heiress presumptive of King William.

ATTENDANCE UPON DIVINE SERVICE.

So fearful was the Royal Duchess of the pernicious effect of flattery upon the mind of the Princess, that when her Royal Highness had entered her eighth year, and it became desirable that she should constantly attend the performance of Divine service every Sunday, her mother would not take her to Kensington Church, lest the attention of the congregation should be improperly directed towards her, and her young heart become unduly elated by the adulation of the multitude. The church service was therefore regularly performed in the private chapel communicating with the Duchess's apartments in the palace, and a sermon preached every Sunday morning by the Rev. Mr. Davys, the Princess's preceptor; the Duchess herself who had hitherto always frequented the German Chapel in St. James's Palace, relinquished this custom, and with the Princesses Victoria and Feodore, and the whole of their household, was constantly present. When their Royal Highnesses have been resident at the sea side, however, the Princess has been always taken to the parish church, frequently twice on a Sunday; and the demeanour of the royal child during the performance of her religious duties has, from her earliest years, been such as might be expected from the precept and example of her exemplary parent, serious, devout,

attentive; her humility in presenting herself at the footstool of the King of kings has been exemplified in the reverent posture it has ever been her habit to assume; and the devotion of her heart has been eloquently portrayed in her expressive countenance, her blue eyes raised to heaven, and her lips employed in fervent addresses to her Maker, with an air of abstraction and piety at once artless and affecting.

FAMILY MEETINGS.

THE young Princess was partially confined during the winter months with a severe cold and troublesome cough, but as the spring advanced, Kensington Gardens were again enlivened by her daily presence; her Royal Highness constantly rode either in her pony phaeton or on her donkey, still highly favoured as the gift of her beloved and lamented uncle, for several hours in the park and gardens; during these airings she generally alighted several times to walk and run in the gravel walks, and down the hills, sometimes carrying her little willow broom, with which she carefully swept away the leaves and stones from her path, and sometimes her rake and fork, to amuse herself with any hay that might chance to lie in her way. "The lovely little Princess," said the journals of the day, "is the picture of health, intelligence and good humour, and always returns the notice of the company in the most gracious and pleasing manner." Her Royal

Highness was also a frequent visitor, together with her mother and sister, to each of her aunts and uncles, by all of whom she was greatly beloved, not merely as the only little one of the family, and as so important a member of that family, but on her own account, as a most amiable and engaging child. On the 20th of April, this year, the Duchess of Kent celebrated the birth-day of the Duchess of Gloucester, by a general assemblage of the Royal Family, at her apartments in Kensington Palace, where a splendid entertainment was provided for them; these family meetings were of course highly agreeable to the young Princess, who was always much noticed and indulged on such occasions.

THE QUEEN OF WURTEMBERG.

HER Royal Highness had this summer the gratification of an introduction to a member of her family whom she had never seen before; the Queen of Wurtemberg, the eldest daughter of King George the Third, and consequently aunt to the young Princess, and also her godmother, who had been married thirty years, and had never during that long period visited her native country, arrived at length in England to enjoy the society of her brothers and sisters for a few months, and to try the effect of her native air upon a diseased constitution; she did not, alas! derive the expected benefit, and survived her return to the Continent but one year; this melancholy event was not, however, now foreseen,

and her visit to her relatives here was a great cause of family rejoicing. During her short stay in London she was visited two or three times a week by the Duchess of Kent and her daughters.

VISIT TO THE TOWER.

THE Princess was now considered old enough to take a rational interest in the events of our national history, and in viewing the places connected with it; she was accordingly taken in the month of June to the Tower of London by the Duchess, accompanied by the Princess Feodore and their attendants. They were received by the principal officers of the establishment, who conducted them over this ancient fortress, and explained every part of it which excited the curiosity of the Princess. Many young readers will be able to understand the delight of their little Queen on beholding the vast and tasteful display of armoury and the magnificence of the regalia; and also the feelings of mournful interest that shaded her expressive countenance as she entered the room in which the young King Edward and his brother, the Duke of York, were, it is said, barbarously murdered by their wicked uncle; and examined the spot beneath which their bones were, many years afterwards, also said to have been discovered. The wild beasts next attracted her attention, and she was upon the whole much gratified by her excursion.

ATTACHMENT TO PRINCE LEOPOLD.

DURING the childhood of the Princess much of her time was spent at Claremont, the residence of Prince Leopold, her maternal and best beloved uncle. At this beautiful retreat her Royal Highness, in company with her illustrious mother, frequently passed weeks and even months together in the enjoyment of the happiest domestic intercourse, to a participation in which, a select party of nobility were sometimes invited. During these lengthened visits the Princess delighted in her unrestrained rambles through the charming pleasure grounds; the flower garden especially was continually resorted to, and here her Royal Highness often amused herself in examining the plants with great minuteness, giving proofs, although still so young, of a good botanical taste, which was carefully cultivated by Prince Leopold, who, himself highly accomplished in this science, yet condescended to the capacity of the royal child, and entertained her with simple lectures on the nature and properties of the various plants and flowers which were brought under her observation. His Royal Highness indeed evinced an almost paternal tenderness for this living image of his departed consort, in the splendour of whose destiny he found an additional resemblance, and a new source of interest! That the parallel may extend no further is the fervent prayer of the united people; and confident in the cheering

promise that this lovely scion of royalty will long and gloriously fill the throne of her ancestors, they join unanimously in the address of the Poet :—

“ But thou art yet most young, and I will not
 Over thy cloudless spirit throw a shade,
 By dark forebodings of thy future lot,
 Which couldn't perhaps too brightly be pourtray'd.
 No ! by the bloom upon thy cheek displayed,
 The cheerful throbbing of thy tranquil breast,
 The smiles in which thy blue eyes are arrayed,
 The joy with which thy accents are expressed,
 Hope whispers, with thy presence Earth shall long be
 blest.”*

The Prince took pleasure in superintending the progress of her various studies, and was frequently required to undergo the somewhat irksome task of listening to whole pages of history, grammar, or geography ; but his trouble went not unrewarded, for no sooner were the books laid aside than the two little arms were thrown fondly round his neck, and many kisses repaid him for his kindness. Then dressed in her plain white frock and tippet and Dunstable straw bonnet, the unsophisticated child would run and jump about for hours together on the extensive lawn, playing with her dolls, her little cart, her rake and fork, and other equally infantine toys, in gaiety of heart and artless simplicity of manner ; or tripping beside her royal uncle, she would gather the choicest flowers her own little

* Lines on the Princess's ninth birth-day by Sforza.

parterre afforded, and desiring him to bend on one knee before her, fasten them herself into the button-hole of his coat; then darting from his side challenge him to catch her, and running round the trees and down the hills with the swiftness of the deer, elude his pursuit, till weary with her exertions, she was compelled to slacken her pace and acknowledge herself defeated. It was to the mutual regret of all whenever this family party was compelled by circumstances to break up and resort to their respective residences in London. But Prince Leopold when in town was an almost daily visitor at Kensington Palace, where his welcome presence was ever the harbinger of pleasure, and the little evening concerts, in which the youthful Princess was early accustomed to bear a part, were enjoyed with redoubled zest derived from his frequent company and assistance.

DUCHESS OF CLARENCE AND PRINCE LEOPOLD AT
TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

· AGAIN this season, the Duchess of Kent and her family occupied Mount Pleasant House, Tunbridge Wells, and very soon after her arrival, the young Princess experienced the pleasure of a visit from an aunt to whom she has always been affectionately attached, and who has ever shown the most marked kindness towards her, the Duchess of Clarence, now the Queen Dowager. Her Royal Highness was but two days at the Wells, sleeping at the Sussex

Hotel, but spending her time with the Duchess of Kent, to whom her visit was paid. The inhabitants received the Royal Duchess with the honours appropriate to her exalted rank, but it was for the enjoyment of friendly and family intercourse that she came, and to it her time was entirely devoted. The whole party were, however, in the air the greater part of the day, walking and riding about the town and neighbourhood without ostentation, and visiting in the most condescending manner the several repositories of the peculiar manufactures of the place, at each of which they made some purchases.

This visit, which none of the party enjoyed more than the little Victoria, was, however, soon over; but it was followed in the succeeding week by another equally acceptable, and of longer duration. Prince Leopold arrived at Tunbridge Wells, and made the Sussex Hotel his head quarters during the remainder of his sister's stay at Mount Pleasant. The anniversary of the Duchess of Kent's birth, which occurred immediately after the Prince's arrival, was marked with peculiar tokens of respect by the inhabitants of Tunbridge Wells. A serenade on the lawn, as early as six o'clock in the morning, awoke our young Princess to the remembrance of a day, which, from her very infancy, she had been accustomed to consider as the chief holiday of the year and which, on this occasion, was to be celebrated by the population generally. At a public dinner at the Sussex Hotel, the chairman, in giving

the health of the Duchess, took occasion, very feelingly to remark upon the high claims her Royal Highness had to the gratitude of the nation at large, from the excellent education she was giving, under the influence of her bright example, and in the principles of piety and benevolence, to that interesting child, who even then seemed destined, though at a future day, to sway the sceptre of these realms; and concluding with an aspiration for the blessing of heaven on that great work which was to affect the happiness of millions, was assured of the concurrence of the company in his sentiments, by the cheerings long and loud which hailed their utterance.

REMOVAL TO RAMSGATE.

AFTER a residence of five or six weeks at Tunbridge Wells, the Duchess, the Princesses, Prince Charles, who was visiting his royal mother, and Prince Leopold, all removed to Ramsgate for the additional benefit of the sea air. They left behind them numerous tokens of their bounty, both public and private, and took with them in return the prayers and blessings of the inhabitants, who, for several successive summers, had been rendered prosperous and happy by their residence amongst them, and who delighted to witness health's cheering ray on the brow of their royal patroness, and to observe the maturing intelligence and sweetness of their youthful Princess, whose animated countenance, beaming with the happy smiles of childhood, shed

pleasure and joyfulness around whenever she appeared in public. It being known that their Royal Highnesses would travel on a certain day, the greatest excitement prevailed along the whole line of road, and in every town they passed through, they were received with shouts of welcome from the assembled inhabitants. In Ramsgate, the merry-making was general throughout the day, for this visit of the Princess was anticipated, and welcomed there with no common joy ; and when the hour fixed for the arrival of the royal party drew near, many of the principal inhabitants on horseback, accompanied by the most distinguished visitors in their carriages, set out to meet and escort them into the town, where they were welcomed by the acclamations of the assembled crowds. On alighting at Townley House, the same which they had occupied on their former visits, they staid only to change their dresses, and the Duchess, with her two daughters and her son, then re-entering their open landau, proceeded to Albion Place to dine with Prince Leopold. Their return home in the evening afforded an opportunity of viewing the fireworks and illuminations, in which the town took pride in surpassing all its former efforts, and to which the adjacent water, and the gaily decorated vessels in the harbour lent additional brilliancy, producing a scene of novelty to the eye of the youthful traveller.

At this pleasant watering-place, rendered still more agreeable by the residence of Prince Leopold there, the Duchess and her happy family passed a

month in the enjoyment of social intercourse ; and the kind interest which the Duchess and the Prince manifested in all the local institutions of the place ; whether for the promotion of amusement or benevolence, but particularly the latter, endeared them greatly to the inhabitants. Meanwhile, though the royal party joined in every recreation which could contribute to health and cheerfulness, they still maintained that privacy which had always distinguished them ; they commanded no performance ; they patronized no concerts ; they attended no public places excepting the chapel of ease, where they resorted without the least parade every Sunday ; but their select parties at Townley House were resumed, and they were to be seen at all hours of the day, the young Princess in particular, walking or riding on the beach, the sands, and the adjacent drives, enjoying the free air and unconstrained exercise with all the hilarity of childhood.

“ Sometimes her donkey airing was extended by the sea-side as far towards Broadstairs as the state of the tide and weather would permit. The beautiful marine retreat of Pegwell Bay was also frequently selected for her airing ; and she often expressed her high admiration of the picturesque scenery with which this delightful spot abounds. At other times her Royal Highness perambulated the higher parts of the town on foot, noticing the improvements and additions to the place since her last visit, and apparently watching for opportunities of speaking to individuals who attracted her atten-

tion. One morning, in Wellington Crescent, she was particularly interested by the plaintive cry of a little chimney sweeper, and expressing to her governess a strong impulse of compassion, she took half-a-crown from her reticule, and sent it to the poor little fellow, whose countenance and action on receiving the princely gift, and the contrast of the shining whiteness of the coin with the dark and dingy hand that held it, superseded the momentarily painful emotion, by a quick apprehension of the ludicrous.

"The Princess recognised with lively interest all those individuals of the town with whom she had had the slightest intercourse three years before, and frequently entered into the most familiar and condescending conversation with them. Her general manners were now more noticed than had been the case before, partly because her excursions were more frequent and more numerously witnessed; and partly because eight years had rendered her tolerably conspicuous, and a fair subject for public remark."*

Many persons were known to observe upon the unusual steadiness and gravity of her appearance when in public, but those who were in the habit of seeing her at home and unrestrained, knew her to be in reality extremely lively, very amiable, pos-

* From "Public Characters," published by Knight and Lacey, 1828.

sessed of excellent abilities, but unwilling to bestow a lengthened attention on any one subject.

Her timely sallies and pertinent remarks, given with interesting simplicity, greatly delighted all who associated with her ; and the period of her departure was looked to with considerable regret, by both the inhabitants and visitors of Ramsgate.

The illness which the royal child had suffered on her former voyages, and the extreme dislike she expressed to their repetition, determined the Duchess to return to London by land, which she accordingly did, resting for a day or two at Cobham Hall, the seat of the Earl of Darnley ; after which her Royal Highness and her family proceeded to Claremont on a visit of some weeks.

NEWSPAPER ANNOUNCEMENT.

SHORTLY after their return to Kensington Palace, the public journals contained an interesting announcement which we give in the words of the writer :

“The young Princess Victoria takes an airing daily in her private carriage, with two female attendants, and continues to walk in Kensington Gardens whenever the weather permits. Her Royal Highness is a great favourite with the visitors there, whose notice she always returns in the most courteous and engaging manner. She also frequently accompanies the Duchess of Kent in her visits to

the royal family, &c. The infant Princess looks remarkably well, and has grown and improved during her residence at Ramsgate. Her Royal Highness is a very lovely and promising child."

YOUTHFUL WIT.

THE Princess now returned to her studies with alacrity and zest. She was one day, when very young, reading to her preceptress, the Baroness Lehzen, that passage in the Roman History which relates, that a noble lady visiting Cornelia, the mother of the Gracchi, displayed, after the custom of the time, her casket of precious stones, and called upon the Roman matron to produce her jewels in return, when Cornelia, handing forth her children, exclaimed with maternal pride, "Behold my jewels!" The little Princess laid down the book, and looking archly in the Baroness's face, said, "Jewels, then I suppose they were Cornelians."

Her French master having once given her an interesting narrative to translate from English into French, the Duchess desired her, when she had finished her lesson, to thank M. Grandineau for the trouble he had taken, "No mamma," replied the young Princess with assumed dignity, "M. Grandineau should thank me, for I have taken the trouble to translate the story for him."

BRITISH SPIRIT.

HER Royal Highness has evinced on various occasions during her growing up, that, like her august grandfather, she gloried in the name of Briton. She has always expressed a repugnance to be taken abroad until she had become thoroughly acquainted with the manners, customs, arts and manufactures of her native country generally, and even of its localities, and so far did the youthful heiress carry this patriotic preference, that, although perfectly acquainted with several European languages, and especially with the French and German, she could never be persuaded to converse in any of them as a habit, always observing that "She was a little English girl, and would speak nothing but English." In this particular as in many others, her character and disposition bore a striking resemblance to the late beloved Princess Charlotte, with perhaps the distinction, as once elegantly expressed by a gentleman of refined taste intimately connected with both, "That grew a little wild flower, but this is highly cultivated."

SIMPLICITY OF DRESS AND DIET.

THE young Princess always appeared both at home and abroad in a dress of striking neatness, a cambric frock and pelisse, white as the driven snow, and trimmed with a frill of the finest needle-

work, and a straw bonnet lined with pink or blue, by both which colours her transparent complexion was shown off to the best advantage, was her most usual summer attire ; this was varied in the winter, only by the warmer material which the change of atmosphere required ; and it is a remarkable instance of the plainness and simplicity with which she was educated, affording an example worthy of imitation, that neither curling irons nor papers were permitted to approach her beautiful hair until the Princess had completed her tenth year, up to which period she always wore it merely parted over her ample forehead without an attempt at artificial ornament.

Returning on one occasion from Ramsgate to London, the royal party stopped at Maidstone to change horses, but did not alight from their carriage. A vast assemblage of spectators were attracted to the spot, and expressed no small astonishment on hearing the young Princess, when asked what refreshment she would take, request in the sweetest accents "a small piece of stale bread." It is impossible adequately to describe the gratified feelings of the humbler classes when such trifling circumstances arise, tending to prove that a bond of union exists between themselves and those who move in an exalted sphere by any identity of habits and inclinations ; and when they were convinced by their own senses that their future Sovereign, she in whose blooming countenance they rejoiced to behold all the noble characteristics of her illustrious

race—really preferred that simple fare which comes within the compass of them all, to the jellies, custards, or other delicacies she might have been expected to call for, their delight exceeded all bounds, and broke forth in the loudest and most enthusiastic acclamations.

COVENT GARDEN THEATRE.

THE increasing popularity of the young Princess was strikingly exemplified in a disappointment experienced by the public early in January 1828, during the performance of the Christmas pantomimes at the two great theatres; the entertainments at that of Covent Garden were one evening announced to be by "special desire," and as this is the form usually observed when any of the royal family intend to visit the theatres in state, and as the Princess was the only member of that family who could be supposed much interested in the performances of Harlequin and Pantaloon, the people naturally concluded that her Royal Highness would make her first public appearance on this occasion; the theatre was crowded in every part, and from the period of the rising of the curtain all eyes were impatiently directed to the box which was appropriated to the use of the expected illustrious guests; the evening, however, wore away, the audience remained ungratified, and the royal box untenanted even to the last.

MARRIAGE OF THE PRINCESS FEODORE.

As the approaching nuptials of her beloved sister drew nearer and nearer, the sweet little Princess tripped merrily from room to room, at one moment assisting with fancied importance in the busy preparations for the joyous festival, at another examining with eager pleasure the splendid wedding dresses as they were folded one by one into the travelling chests which were to convey them far, far away, to the new abode of the "Bonny Bride," longing, perhaps, for the distant period when she should become the possessor of so much finery, and be herself the heroine of all this bustle, festivity, and rejoicing. The long looked for day at length arrived, and the proud mother, accompanied by the interesting bride and her royal sister, habited alike in simple robes of white Buckinghamshire thread lace, the one with a palpitating heart, and the other all impatient anticipation of the novel ceremony, awaited in the great vestibule the assembling of the various members of the royal family who were to be present on the momentous occasion. From the vestibule the royal party proceeded into the adjoining grand saloon, the Duke of Clarence leading the Princess Feodore, whose hand he was about to bestow on the reigning Prince of Hohenlohe Langenburg. Here a temporary altar was erected, and the company having ranged themselves around it,

respective residences; the Prince and Princess of Hohenlohe Langenburg also left Kensington Palace, where they passed the first few days of their wedded life. The next morning the Duke and Duchess of Kent, the Princess Victoria, and the Princess of Leiningen, who had arrived in England for the purpose of being present at the marriage, joined the bride and bridegroom at Claremont; and on the following day the whole party paid a visit of ceremony to the King at his cottage in Windsor. The Duchess of Kent, with her two daughters, and her son-in-law, rode in a beautiful state landau which had been presented to the bride by her maternal uncle, Prince Leopold. Prince Charles and his attendants of the royal party followed in carriages, which, together with the first, were drawn by four horses, each with postillions, and our party in full-dress liveries: the bridal cavalcade thus presented a very splendid appearance, attracted much notice, and as it proceeded rapidly towards Windsor, it passed through the town of Egham.

parting tribute of respect to the amiable young Princess ; her Serene Highness, affected by the compliment, returned with warmth the salutations of the spectators ; while the pretty face of her infant sister, exhibited at the opposite window, made ample amends for the disappointment of those who were not fortunate enough to catch a passing glimpse of the lovely bride. Alighting at the royal lodge, they were conducted to the presence of the King, who received them in the drawing-room with all the gallantry that such an occasion was calculated to elicit from the most polished gentleman in Europe. The visit was considered as a state one, and preparations had been made for it accordingly ; the conservatory was beautifully arranged with the choicest plants and flowering shrubs, the sombre hues of which formed a striking contrast with the magnificent state dresses of the private band, who were stationed in this apartment, and played the sweetest Italian airs during the time that the royal guests were partaking of the cold collation provided for them in the adjoining room. At four o'clock the bridal party took leave of his Majesty, and after viewing the menagerie in the great park, returned to their temporary residence at Claremont.

This auspicious marriage had hitherto proved only a source of pleasure to the little Princess ; and amidst the gaieties and congratulations consequent upon it, she had scarce found time to bestow even a stray thought upon the parting hour ; unwelcome as it was, it arrived however in its due course, and all the delights of the preceding week were forgotten in

the sadness of the last farewell. The royal mother, although she keenly felt the deprivation in store for her in the loss of that dear society, which, since her elder daughter had reached the first dawn of womanhood, had proved an antidote to all the little troubles and vexations attendant upon this world of trial, even to the most exalted, had her well-regulated mind stored with causes of consolation if not of rejoicing; the happiness and welfare of her child was an object of far more importance than her own temporary gratification, and she could not but feel convinced that having placed her under the protection of a tender and excellent husband, new scenes, new hopes, and new affections would rise around her in her future home, and render it, as it was more permanent, also more desirable than that which she had quitted. But to the artless apprehension of the infant Victoria, no such arguments arose, and it required all the exertions of her mother and governess to withdraw her from the contemplation of her severe loss; time, however, effectually seconded their efforts, and the Princess in the course of a few weeks began to look to the successive letters of her sister, with the accounts they contained of her establishment abroad, her newly adopted family and habits, as a never failing source of delight. Having herself nearly completed her ninth year, she was enabled to contribute to the gratification of the beloved absentee by frequently writing to her, and filling her letters with those trifling particulars, which, though highly interesting to those who love

us, are not apt to be recorded but by the pen of childhood.

PRINCE GEORGE OF CUMBERLAND.

THIS period of excitement having passed away, but little occurred during the ensuing spring to vary the seclusion in which our future Sovereign passed her early days ; but though so little seen or personally known, the young heiress was too important a personage to be altogether forgotten ; and the political agitators took advantage of a visit paid to his father-land for the first time by Prince George of Cumberland, to report an intended early betrothment of the juvenile cousins ; nay, they went so far as to affirm that a scheme was on foot, not only for the immediate solemnization of this ceremony, but for declaring the young Prince joint successor to the throne. As it generally happens in such cases, these rumours were accompanied by a train of circumstantial evidence intended to bear them out ; it was stated that all parties were agreed except those most nearly interested, who did not at present exhibit so great a predilection for each other as might be supposed to lead to such a consummation. Prince George was a remarkably fine boy, with a fair, open, animated countenance, warm tempered and high spirited ; but having always been much indulged, was full of boyish and mischievous pranks, and altogether of too volatile a disposition to meet the taste of his sedate and gentle cousin ;

his manners also were probably too assuming to be exactly pleasing to her superior dignity ; at all events, she was represented as far from partial to him ; and the Prince was said to prefer his younger cousin Augusta of Cambridge, a pretty little romp, ever ready to take part in his wildest whims.

INTRODUCTION TO SIR WALTER SCOTT.

THE following entry appears in the Diary of Sir Walter Scott, under the date of 19th May, 1828. "Dined by command with the Duchess of Kent. I was very kindly recognised by Prince Leopold—and presented to the little Princess Victoria—I hope they will change her name—the heir apparent to the crown as things now stand. How strange that so large and fine a family as that of his late Majesty should have died off, or decayed into old age with so few descendants ; Prince George of Cumberland is, they say, a fine boy about nine years old—a bit of a pickle. This little lady is educating with much care, and watched so closely that no busy maid has a moment to whisper, 'You are heir of England.' I suspect if we could dissect the little heart, we should find that some pigeon or other bird of the air had carried the matter. She is fair, like the royal family—the Duchess herself very pleasing and affable in her manners."

Sir Walter was for once mistaken in his conjectures ; her Royal Highness was not aware of the important fact of her heirship until two years later

than this period, as will appear from an interesting anecdote to be presently related in this volume.

A JUVENILE FETE.

IN the month of June the settled fineness of the weather offered a favourable opportunity for the young Princess to entertain a party of youthful nobility, and cards were accordingly issued, with only a few hours' notice. It was not proposed to give a regular ball, but rather to provide a variety of amusements both in and out of doors, of which the juvenile guests might partake at their pleasure; they assembled early in the afternoon, and the young Princess presiding at the fête with dignity and spirit, the delighted children enjoyed themselves much more than if the utmost efforts of royalty had been exerted to impose upon their imaginations and to pamper their appetites. Tea and coffee, and afterwards light refreshments, were handed round, and the happy party broke up at a rational hour, impressed with gratitude for the kindness and condescension of the Duchess, and with affection for her lovely daughter.

EXCURSIONS ATTRACTIVE TO THE PUBLIC.

As the Princess Victoria advanced in years, her out of door occupations and excursions became a source of increasing interest to the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, who delighted to contemplate

her growth, the rapid opening of her intellectual abilities, and her general improvement. She rose as usual early in the morning, and was generally in the gardens on her donkey between eight and nine o'clock. After breakfast the time till two, her dinner hour, was exclusively devoted to study; and in the afternoon she either visited the different members of her family in company with her mother, or took a long airing with the Baroness Lehzen, in her pony phaeton. When riding on the Uxbridge road, she would frequently alight in the fields round Acton, and walk or run about at her ease; and it was remarkable that she was so fond of playing amongst the hay, that she never could resist the temptation when she met with any on the road. Sometimes she rode to Kew, and indulged her botanical taste with a walk through the charming horticultural gardens there. So great was the enthusiasm thus excited amongst the select few, by the constant presence of their future sovereign, that even the veriest infant were partakers in it, and sweet, genteel children, who could scarcely speak or run, would every day wait with impatience round the green paling of the lawn, longing for the appearance of the little mistress of their affections, and eagerly catching and recording, in their lisping accents, when at last she arrived amongst them, every word and action of the royal child; and frequently have unruly little girls and boys been threatened with being carried home without seeing the Princess; or as the acme of punishment, with the displeasure

of her Royal Highness, who, they were told, would never again speak to or smile upon such naughty children.

It was probably the contemplation of the incense thus early offered at the shrine of the future Queen, that suggested the terms of Mr. Kennedy's energetic address :—

“ The blood in thy young veins is royal,
Thy destiny points to a throne,
Yet one who would not prove disloyal,
Forgets all—save thyself alone ;
Thyself—who spite of rank or feature,
Or mental wealth, alas ! must share
The common ills which every creature,
However blest, is doomed to bear.
Princess ! the weal or woe of many
May, by Heaven's will, depend on thee ;
It then befits thee more than any
To be from vain illusion free.
If youthful thoughts at random straying,
Should paint the splendour of a crown,
Think of the iron cares still weighing
The weary head that wears it down.
On history's page, thou may'st discover
A lesson for rebellious pride ;
How kings and queens a few years over,
Have all, without exception, died ;
'Twill tell thee of a cruel Mary,
A good queen Bess, triumphant Anne ;
And more, whose reputations vary
As good or ill they dealt to man.
The sovereign who would live for ever,
Enthroned in an eternal sphere,
Must counsel ask of God, and never
Reject his laws while ruling here.

No brow majestic beams so brightly,
 As that where placid wisdom dwells;
 No breast imperial beats so lightly,
 As that where tender mercy swells.*

UNAUTHORISED INTRUSION.

THE extreme kindness with which even the sometimes intrusive wishes of spectators were indulged was particularly exemplified on the following occasion. A party of ladies, one of whom was very aged, had been long watching the playful gambols of the little Princess within the enclosure of the palace lawn, and longing for a nearer view of her countenance; finding, however, that she was not likely to extend her ramble and thus give them the wished for opportunity, one of the party somewhat unjustifiably invaded her privacy, and opening the little gate, walked up to the Baroness Lehzen, who was seated under the trees, and requested that the young Princess might be shown for a moment to her venerable friend; the baroness, with the utmost courtesy, immediately took the hand of her royal pupil, and leading her to the paling, introduced her to the old lady; the Princess gracefully returned the compliments paid her, answered one or two questions as to her health, &c. and retired, leaving her new acquaintances perfectly enchanted

* An extract from lines addressed to the Princess Victoria, published in the "Juvenile Forget-Me-Not" for 1829.

with her beauty, simplicity, and condescension. The Baroness, however, with a dignity which marked her sense of the unusual liberty, returned no more to her seat, but conducted her Royal Highness directly into the palace.

THE QUEEN OF PORTUGAL.

It was about this time that the young Donna Maria da Gloria, Princess of Brazil, and now Queen of Portugal, arrived in this country, having been sent to Europe by her imperial father with the view of prosecuting her claim to the throne of Portugal, which had been lately usurped by her uncle Don Miguel; she was received here with all the honours usually accorded only to crowned heads, and as it was the fashion of the day to idolize her youthful Majesty, our journals teemed with exaggerated accounts of her beauty, talents, and accomplishments. Every word and action of the little Queen was retailed with tedious exactness, till at length Englishmen began to wonder why this foreign child should so entirely supersede in their attention the heiress presumptive to their own throne, only one month her junior, and so much more interesting to their future hopes and expectations. Most unnecessarily indeed had the national jealousy been thus excited, for a very slight inquiry into the personal and intellectual qualifications of the Princess Victoria would have proved that a comparison of her attainments with those of her

Portuguese Majesty might have been proudly instituted.

After the young Queen's introduction to King George the Fourth, which took place with great state at Windsor, when she had been some weeks in England, each member of the royal family paid their respects to her at Laleham, in Surrey, where the seat of the Earl of Lucan had been taken for her accommodation ; and her Majesty very shortly made return visits to their Royal Highnesses at their respective residences. She arrived at Kensington Palace, with her suite, in four state carriages, and was received on alighting by Captain, now by the honour of knighthood, Sir John Conroy, General Wetherall, and the Baroness de Spaedth, and conducted to the drawing-room, where the Duchess of Kent, accompanied by the Princess Victoria, and attended by her full household, awaited her introduction. Shortly after the Queen's arrival, the Princess Sophia joined the party, and the Royal guest was led to the dining-room, where she partook of a cold collation, conversed for an hour and a half with the Princesses, and then took her departure with equal ceremony. Thus these two illustrious young ladies became personally acquainted, and each, doubtless, surveyed the other with feelings of curiosity and interest ; but it does not appear that during the twelve months' residence of the Queen of Portugal in this country, any further intimacy subsisted between them, than an occasional interchange of such visits of ceremony, probably

because the formal etiquette and pompous retinue by which her Majesty was surrounded, contrasted too strongly with the unaffected simplicity and retired elegance of the British Princess.

A ROYAL JUVENILE BALL.

It was at the age of ten years, on the occasion of a juvenile ball, given by the King at St. James's Palace to the Princess Victoria and the Queen of Portugal, that her Royal Highness witnessed, for the first time, the stately magnificence of a full court party. The grand array of military in the court yard, and the reception by the band in their state dresses, with the inspiring notes of the national anthem; the yeomen of the guard; the pages, who, in their splendid uniforms of purple and gold, lined the anti-chambers, and the innumerable train of servants in the royal scarlet liveries; the magnificent hangings and decorations of the drawing-rooms and ball-room; the variety and beauty of the female dresses, studded with jewels of every description, contrasting with the military and naval uniforms of the officers present, the simplicity of the juvenile throng who occupied the centre of the ball-room; and above all, the grandeur and pomp displayed at the royal banquet; each in its turn rivetted her attention, and excited equally her wonder and delight. These feelings were shared by many a young companion to whom the scene was as novel and as interesting. The youthful majesty of Portugal appeared superbly

attired, and surrounded by her court. The King, after conversing with her for some time, conducted her to the ball-room, when dancing immediately commenced, and the style of the Queen's performance was much extolled; but our own young Princess, though she did not attempt to emulate the splendour of the royal guest, was nevertheless decidedly the most lovely and attractive of all the juvenile circle. Her fair face, clad in the smiles of joy, and her frank engaging manners were universally admired. She entered into the merry dance with great spirit and animation, honouring with her hand successively Prince William of Saxe-Weimar, Prince Nicholas Esterhazy, Lord Fitzallan, the grandson of the Duke of Norfolk, and the sons of the Earls of Jersey, Delawarr and Verulam.

The meeting of these two young Princesses, of the same age, with similar prospects, who have since become connected by marriage ties, and are now reigning together, though we would fain believe under very different auspices, added greatly to the interest of this august assembly; and it was generally acknowledged, that our pretty Victoria by comparison with her more pretending friend, fell short only in the qualifications of height and bulk.

THE TENTH BIRTH-DAY.

HER birth-day occurring this year on a Sunday, it was opened by the pious observances appropriated to the day. Her excellent preceptor performed

Divine service as usual, and did not let slip the interesting opportunity of solemnly impressing upon the mind of the Princess, who had now completed her tenth year, and was, therefore, old enough to understand the precepts of Christianity, and to act upon reason and principle, the duties imposed upon her, in common with all her fellow-creatures, as a being responsible to her Creator, and placed in this world for the purpose of trial ; that when it shall please God to call her from it, she may be removed to a state of everlasting happiness or misery, accordingly as she shall have obeyed or disregarded his sacred commandments ; and also the duties imposed upon *her* individually by her exalted station, which rendered her example of so much importance to the thousands and tens of thousands whose eyes were fixed upon her ; reminding his attentive auditor of the Divine maxim, “ For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required.” At half past two o’clock the usual meeting of her illustrious relatives took place, accompanied by the customary congratulations and birth-day gifts. After the members of the royal family had retired, the Queen of Portugal arrived with her suite at the palace to pay her compliments to the Princess on the return of the day ; and on this occasion, the Duchess and her daughter did the young Queen the high honour to receive her personally on the grand staircase.

BROADSTAIRS.

THE beautiful village of Broadstairs, within a pleasant drive both of Ramsgate and Margate, was fixed upon as the marine residence of the Princess and her royal mother for the summer of 1829, and Piermont, a noble mansion, selected for their abode, with the addition of Belvidere House for the accommodation of the retinue. On Monday, the 27th of July, their Royal Highnesses, with their immediate personal attendants, left Kensington Palace for Cobham Hall, the seat of the Earl of Darnley, where they remained till the following Saturday, thus giving time for the transferring from Kensington to Broadstairs, and the comfortable arrangement at the latter place before their own arrival, of their numerous household, which had indeed by this time become very extensive ; and we may form some judgment of the vast trouble and expense attendant upon these annual removals, from the fact that seventeen horses, three ponies, and three donkies formed the establishment of the stables upon this occasion.

The following whimsical account of their Royal Highnesses' passage through Canterbury on the 1st of August, appeared in one of the daily journals of the period ;—"On Saturday last, at Canterbury, we were all agog in expectation of the Duchess of Kent, and her future Majesty, Victoria the first of Eng-

land, on their way to a bathing sojourn at Broadstairs. The bay windows in the main street of this ancient city were not actually groaning beneath the weight of the ladies therein congregated, but they were literally bursting with beauty anxious to behold its future Queen; and the ringers in the cathedral tower, and all the other towers, were at their ropes, ready to give the royal travellers a clanging salute in *transitu*. Nor were either the *belles* or the bells disappointed, for about five o'clock in the afternoon, or it might be nearly six, their Royal Highnesses with two carriages galloped through the gates and up the main street to the Crown Hotel, where Sir John Conroy and Prince Charles (who had been some weeks in England on a visit to his mother) alighted from the first carriage, whilst the horses were changing, and the ladies were looking, and the bells were ringing, and having partaken of some slight refreshment—a bottle of soda water perchance, or a glass of sherry and a biscuit—the royal cortège, as the learned called it, galloped out again on the road to Broadstairs, her future Majesty nodding and smiling at us all in the prettiest and most gracious manner imaginable.”

About seven o'clock in the evening they arrived at their temporary abode, where they were received with every expression of loyalty and respect. It was not long before the royal visitors appeared at Ramsgate, and the greatest interest was felt by the inhabitants of that place, in marking the growth and improvement of their beautiful little favourite

since they had lost the happiness of seeing her; she was in her turn gracious and condescending to all; and appeared to take particular pleasure in frequenting the libraries, temple of fancy, and other institutions which she had long known and favoured. The Duchess's birth-day, always a gala in the domestic circle, was observed with tokens of general rejoicing both at Ramsgate and Broadstairs. Their abode at the sea-side was this year extended to the unusual period of three months, during which time the young Princess was almost constantly out of doors, enjoying the sea breezes in freedom, and daily advancing in health and strength. During her stay at Broadstairs her Royal Highness patronized a sale of fancy articles for a charitable purpose, attended it herself accompanied by her governess, and made several purchases, particularly of curious pin-cushions, which just at this present time was a favourite article, and of which she had made a large collection.

On Tuesday, the 3rd of November, their Royal Highnesses left Piermont early in the morning, breakfasted at Canterbury, and proceeded to Eastwell, the hospitable mansion of the Earl of Winchilsea, where they remained till Thursday; on that morning they again started, and early in the day reached Maidstone, where they changed horses and were enthusiastically welcomed by a vast number of spectators. In the course of the afternoon their Royal Highnesses rested awhile at the Sussex Hotel, Tunbridge-wells, and here again an oppor-

tunity was afforded for gratifying numbers who were affectionately attached to them. Both mother and daughter appeared at the windows and received with pleasure the salutations of the crowd collected in front of the hotel. They arrived at Buxsted Park, the residence of the Earl of Liverpool, to dinner, attended by Lady Catherine Jenkinson, the eldest of his lordship's three daughters, who had been appointed some time before one of the ladies of the bedchamber to the Duchess of Kent. Lord Liverpool had the honour of entertaining her Royal Highness and her august daughter until Saturday morning, when they departed for Kensington Palace. It was at Buxsted Park that they received the joyful news of the birth of a first born son to the Princess of Hohenlohe Langenburg, who was safely delivered of a Prince on the 25th of October; the infant was immediately baptised by the name of Charles-Lewis-William-Leopold.

ROYAL PATRONAGE.

As the political importance of the Princess increased, the application for her patronage, and permission to dedicate to her literary productions of various kinds became extremely numerous; a small and judicious selection was however made from the general mass, and some meritorious musical compositions, and a few elementary works were, during the last year or two, permitted the honour

of affixing her name to their title-pages, whilst her patronage was liberally granted in cases of real merit, and where it could be beneficially exerted.

THE HEIRESS PRESUMPTIVE.

By the death of King George the Fourth, and the accession of King William, which event occurred on the 26th of June, 1830, her Royal Highness, the Princess Victoria, was placed in the interesting light of heiress presumptive to the throne of these realms. It has been already noticed, that the young Princess was not aware of her exalted destiny until nearly the present period, and an interesting anecdote, which strongly confirms this fact, is derived from the highest authority. During the spring of the year (1830), her Royal Highness, in reading English history with her governess, the Baroness Lehzen, in the presence of her mother, met with some point connected with the line of succession to the crown—probably purposely placed before her just at this period—the princess had recourse to her genealogical table, the constant companion of her historical studies, and after considering it attentively for some time, inquired of her governess,

“In the event of the death of the King her uncle, who would be the presumptive successor to the throne?”

The Baroness parried the question by the reply, “The Duke of Clarence will succeed on the death of the present king.”

"Yes," said the princess, "that I know; but who will succeed him?"

The governess, who saw the bearing of the inquiry, hesitated a moment, and then answered, "Princess, you have several uncles!"

Her Royal Highness now became agitated, the colour rose rapidly to her cheek, and she observed with much seriousness, "True, I have, but I perceive here," pointing to her table, "that my papa was next in age to my uncle Clarence; and it does appear to me, from what I have just been reading, that when he and the present King are both dead, I shall become Queen of England!"

Lady Lehzen looked towards the royal mother, and was silent. The Duchess somewhat startled, and doubtless much affected, after a short pause, replied to the following effect: "We are continually looking forward, my beloved child, in the hope that your dear aunt, the Duchess of Clarence, may yet give birth to living children; should it please God, however, that this be not the case, and that you are spared to the period, very distant I trust, which terminates the valuable lives of our revered Sovereign and the Duke of Clarence, you will indeed, by the established laws of our country, become their undoubted successor. Should this event—at present too remote and uncertain to engage our attention, further than to stimulate our endeavours so to form your mind as to render you not unworthy so high a destiny—should this event indeed occur, may you prove a blessing to your country, and an ornament to the throne you are called to fill."

The precepts suggested by maternal solicitude, on so important and interesting an occasion, were probably pursued much further; but it appeared at least, that the recognition of her close proximity to the throne, excited in the mind of the young Princess thoughts of serious import. Her manners during the day were grave and somewhat agitated, and she exhibited none of the pleasure or levity in contemplating her future destiny, which might have been expected from one so young.

THE PRINCESS AT ELEVEN YEARS OLD.

AT the period of King William's accession to the throne, an interesting and hopeful prospect opened upon the country, in the person of the youthful heiress, who had lately completed her eleventh year. Her Royal Highness was rather short for her age, although the Duchess of Kent in a familiar letter written at about this time says, "Our Victoria grows tall, robust, and handsome; she evinces much talent in whatever she undertakes." Her abilities were indeed excellent, and her observations sensible and inquisitive, but the rapidity with which it was her habit to turn from one subject of inquiry to another, frequently occasioned her instructors some trouble in keeping pace with her elastic imagination. Her education, laid on the best foundation, a solid understanding of the great truths of Christianity, was now most satisfactorily proceeding, without any affectation of unusual pre-

cocity or premature proficiency. She spoke with fluency and elegance nearly all the modern European languages ; in Latin she was already a fair scholar, reading Virgil and Horace with ease ; and in mathematics she had made considerable progress. Her knowledge and understanding of the Bible was such as might be expected from the talents and unremitting exertions of her reverend preceptor, to whom she was also chiefly indebted for an extensive acquaintance with ancient and modern history generally, but particularly with that of her native country ; and from the learned professor Mr. Amos, she was now receiving lectures upon the English Constitution. In the lighter accomplishments suited to her years, her Royal Highness's advance was equally gratifying ; in music especially, her hereditary talent was developing itself in a most interesting manner. Her royal mother again observes, " The dear girl is extremely fond of music ; she already fingers the piano with some skill, and has an excellent voice." At the age of nine years, her Royal Highness was present for the first time, when Beethoven's celebrated "*Hallelujah to the Father*" was performed by a full band ; and the emotion which she evinced when that beautiful passage, " the exalted Son of God," burst upon her astonished ear, will never be forgotten by those who witnessed it. For several minutes after the conclusion of the chorus, she appeared spell-bound, and utterly unable to give expression to those feelings of delight with which her bosom evidently heaved, and which at length

found enthusiastic utterance. From that moment, the Princess always expressed a decided predilection for the works of Haydn, Handel, Beethoven, Pergolesi, and other authors of the same class, and this entirely at her own suggestion, as her musical *studies* were frequently of a different character ; and indeed, her Royal Highness has from an early age excelled in the performance of light German and Italian airs, to which her voice is peculiarly adapted. Drawing also was a favourite occupation of the Princess, and one in which she had made so considerable a progress, as to enable her, a very few months subsequent to this period, to copy off at once, with correctness and spirit, some specimens of Sir Thomas Lawrence's early talent, which were about twenty-four hours only in her possession. Of the Princess's gradual proficiency in this accomplishment, the public have had several opportunities of judging, as her Royal Highness has, from time to time, condescended to present fac-similes of her drawings to various charitable bazaars, which have always proved an interesting and lucrative article for sale, and have exhibited considerable talent, with a regular and decided improvement in proportion to her years. Her Royal Highness was accustomed from her childhood to express to her talented instructor, Mr. Westall, the pleasure she derived from his lessons, and often told him, that she considered the hour devoted to her drawing, as that of her most agreeable recreation, and always looked forward to its recurrence with impatience.

A daily register of her Royal Highness's progress in her studies was constantly kept during her growing-up, and a copy regularly transmitted once a month, for Prince Leopold's inspection.

JUVENILE PORTRAITS.

PORTRAITS of the young Princess were just at this time presented to the public in quick succession; some of them authentic and very good, others of course spurious; and to those who are interested in the representations of our beloved Sovereign in the blithe days of her infancy and childhood, it may be agreeable to pass in brief review such likenesses of her Majesty, taken prior to the present period, as put forth the best pretensions to originality and correctness.

The earliest resemblance in existence, is a small coloured drawing, which hung for many years in the Duchess's private sitting-room, at Kensington Palace. It was taken by a German artist, when the Princess was but a few months old, and represents her reclining in a cot, and apparently just awakening from sleep.

At the age of two years, Mr. Turnerelli modelled a bust, which was an excellent likeness, and strongly marked with the peculiar characteristics of the house of Brunswick. An engraving from this bust appeared in the *European Magazine* for October, 1821.

In December 1821, the infant Princess sat with her mother to Sir William Beechy, for a large oil

colour picture ; the portrait of the Duchess is three-quarters, that of the Princess whole-length. The Duchess is seated on a sofa, her arm encircling her infant, who stands beside her, holding in her hand à miniature likeness of the Duke her father. This picture, which is in the possession of the King of the Belgians, was engraved and published by William Skelton, of Stafford Place, Pimlico.

Mr. Fowler, a rising artist of Ramsgate, was permitted to take the portrait of the Princess when five years old, in a small oil colour picture ; her Royal Highness is seated in a chair, and holds a rose in her hand. The original painting is a good likeness ; has been well engraved by Ward, and published by Colnaghi, of Cockspur Street.

In the autumn of 1827, her Royal Highness sat to Mr. Behnes for a marble bust, which now graces the corridor of Windsor Castle. This is one of the most beautiful specimens of sculpture ever exhibited in the British schools of art ; the likeness perfect ; the features most delicately portrayed, and the expression admirable. A sweet engraving from it by Thompson, formed the frontispiece of the "Juvenile Forget-Me-Not" for 1829. The view of this bust in the exhibition of the Royal Academy, gave rise to the following poetical address to the interesting original.

Young Princess ! I'll not wrong thy spotless brow
With words of idle flattery ; be it mine
To look, admire, and with due homage bow,
A faithful worshipper at thy fair shrine !

Nature hath given thee, Princess, a free store
Of youthful loveliness, and art divine,
And gifted genius, here have blended more :
Talent, and taste, and truth, their aids combine,
And to thy native sweetness, add a grace,
Telling the royal lineage in thy face.
There is a beaming softness in thine eye,
That speaketh love, and gentle sympathy.
Oh ! may thy virgin heart unfold each charm
As years increase ; may noble feelings warm
And regulate thy mind : may England own
Victoria ! Worthy heir to Britain's throne !
And may some abler bard a chaplet twine,
To deck, fair Princess, that pure brow of thine.

ELIZA L. EMMERSON.

At nine years of age a miniature of her Royal Highness was painted by Mr. Stewart, engraved by Woolnoth, and published by Ackermann of the Strand. This beautiful little engraving took the public fancy amazingly, and was thus flatteringly reviewed in the Literary Gazette :—"A countenance at once ingenuous and dignified, and in part strongly reminding us of the late lamented Princess Charlotte. Mr. Anthony Stewart has shown his usual taste and delicacy in this attractive and interesting little portrait ; and it has been prettily engraved in stipple by Mr. Woolnoth."

At about the same time appeared a lithographic engraving by S. Wright, from a drawing by S. Catterson Smith, published by Colnaghi, of Cockspur Street. A tasteful sketch, though rather characterised by affectation, the very reverse of the

Princess's manners. It is full-length ; the royal child is standing in a garden, holding the strings of her hat with one hand, and plucking a rose with the other, her hair quite plain under her hat, and her bosom uncovered ; the likeness is good, though bearing a much stronger resemblance to the Duchess than is perceptible in the original ; the countenance is infantine and pleasing.

In the following year, Mr. Fowler again painted an oil colour portrait of her Royal Highness, which was finely engraved in the line style by Golding, and published by Colnaghi, of Cockspur-Street. This picture was the unfortunate occasion of offence on the part of Sir Thomas Lawrence to the Duchess of Kent, and thus in all probability deprived the country of the privilege of seeing the lovely countenance of its youthful heiress portrayed by the skilful hand of the late president. Mr. Fowler's portrait was offered for exhibition at the Royal Academy, and was very unexpectedly rejected on the ground that it was not deemed of sufficient merit to be placed in a conspicuous situation in the great room, and that it was not etiquette for portraits of the royal family to be hung elsewhere. This cause of non-admission naturally failed to satisfy Mr. Fowler, and the Duchess also was much offended when she found that her intercession failed in altering the determination of the president. Sir Thomas was undoubtedly jealous of his prerogative, or rather monopoly of royal portraits, but his pertinacious adherence to the first refusal, when a

lady and a distinguished member of the royal family interfered was, to say the least, ungracious. This engraving is decidedly the best that exists of the young Princess, with the exception indeed of that from Behnes's bust, up to the period of which we are now speaking ; the likeness is excellent, the carriage very striking, and the air simple and dignified.

In the spring of 1830, the Princess having nearly completed her eleventh year, Westall's full-length painting appeared in the Exhibition of the Royal Academy, and elicited various critical remarks. The picture certainly partakes in a high degree of that mannerism which characterizes far the larger portion of Mr. Westall's performances ; it is nevertheless a good likeness, and the face is remarkably beautiful.

This list comprises but a small portion of the numerous likenesses of the youthful Princess which were continually put forth in every variety of form, and which were in general no otherwise valuable than as a record of the deep interest she excited, since every petty dabbler in the art seemed to think he could not make a more valuable offering to the public than a representation, no matter how unworthy or defective, of the interesting features of the heiress presumptive to the throne.

ACCESSION OF KING WILLIAM.

At the King's first court, Sir John Conroy attended to deliver to his Majesty a letter of condolence written and indited entirely by the young Princess, with which his Majesty expressed himself highly gratified. The space that intervened before the royal funeral was, of course, one of unusual retirement; but that mournful ceremony concluded, the Princess for the next few weeks was introduced more into company and mixed more freely in the court circle than at any former period of her life. The King, willing to gratify his people with a little enjoyment of that royal state which they liberally and cheerfully maintain, but from which they had for many years past derived so little benefit, was constantly abroad amongst them;

"Duly each morn he comes
Forth from his palace gate,
And louder than his drums
Our blessings on him wait;
And by his side, the Queen
Rides forth in goodly sort,
A sight we have not seen
Long time at English court."

In most of these processions and courtly shows the youthful heiress took a conspicuous part. The King of Wurtemberg was also in London, and many fêtes were given by his English relatives in his

honour. At a grand review in Hyde Park, the King appeared on horseback, accompanied by his royal guest, his brothers, the Duke of Wellington, and many distinguished officers. The Queen and the various female branches of the royal family came on to the ground in a train of state carriages, and were received by the populace with loud and long-continued cheering. The first carriage contained the Queen, the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria; the latter attracted much attention and was warmly greeted by those who did and those who did not know the interesting position in which she stood, as appears by the following anecdote:—A person of the lower class who had been in the park on the occasion, returned home highly delighted with all he had seen; after giving a glowing description of the finery of the soldiers, and the condescension of the King, his friends asked him if he had seen the Queen? “Oh Yes!” was the reply; “And what did you think of her?” “Why,” said he, “She is a very pretty little girl of about twelve years old.” After the review the Duke of Wellington gave a magnificent *dejeûné* to their Majesties and a large party, when the young Princess with her cousin, Prince George of Cumberland, was attracted to the balcony at Apsley House, and being recognised by the crowd below, again received a joyous welcome.

On occasion of his Majesty holding a Chapter of the Garter, for the purpose of investing the King of Wurtemberg with the insignia of the order, the

Princess was present at the splendid ceremony, standing beside the throne on which their Majesties were seated in their chairs of state; and here her Royal Highness took her first lesson in the regal office of dispensing courtly honours, probably with little expectation that she would be so early called upon to exhibit her proficiency in the art. She is said however to have been greatly struck with the grand and chivalrous character of the scene, and to have afforded much amusement to her affectionate uncle by the naïveté of her remarks upon the ancient and curious usages connected with the investiture.

JOURNEY TO MALVERN.

THE Duchess of Kent having determined upon a residence at Malvern during the present season, the removal of their Royal Highnesses thither was attended with much more publicity and state than had hitherto been observed in their visits to Ramsgate or Tunbridge-wells. The Duchess arranged to halt for a day or two at Birmingham in order to show the youthful Princess the various manufactures of that celebrated city; and nothing could be more gratifying than the manner in which this object was accomplished, or indeed than the whole progress of this interesting journey. One feeling of delight animated the thousands assembled in the various towns to greet the royal ladies; and although all the streets through which they passed were literally thronged with spectators, the greatest order and

good humour universally prevailed, whilst the joy-breathing shout that welcomed them in every direction, and the respectful demeanour of the assembled multitudes, appeared to reciprocate these feelings of heartfelt pleasure in the bosoms of the illustrious visitors. No where, however, was the reception of their Royal Highnesses more cordial than in the flourishing town of

LEAMINGTON,

WHERE they rested on the 2d day of their journey. The Regent Hotel, in which their Royal Highnesses took up their temporary abode, was surrounded during the whole afternoon by a dense mass of spectators, to whom the little Princess several times presented herself at the window, and returned the popular salute with graceful obeisances. When her Royal Highness appeared for the last time before retiring to rest, the shades of evening were too far advanced to allow persons in the street a clear view of her noble and intelligent features, and her royal mother, in the kindest manner, requested Sir John Conroy to hold two wax lights, which he did with extended arms, standing behind the Princess, who, being elevated on a stool, was supported by the Duchess's arms. The most enthusiastic cheers followed this novel scene, than which it is scarcely possible to imagine one more interesting. The next morning, after receiving an address of congratulation at the Regent Hotel, their Royal Highnesses visited

Kenilworth and Guy's Cliff, and returning to Leamington, viewed every thing worthy of notice in the town. When at length they re-entered their travelling carriage to pursue their route to Birmingham, they were with difficulty driven off in consequence of the immense numbers of equipages and spectators which had congregated in the street. The little Princess stood up as long as the carriage remained in sight ; and by her curtsies and the graceful motion of her hands, seemed to bid a heartfelt adieu to all around her.

BIRMINGHAM.

At Birmingham, where their Royal Highnesses remained two days, they visited the chief manufactories of the city, in each of which they expressed themselves much interested ; but the processes of glass-blowing, and of coining, seemed particularly to fix the attention of the youthful Princess ; she viewed the former at the establishment of Messrs. Bacchus, Green and Bacchus, and expressed her great astonishment and delight at witnessing its progress from the sand up to the perfect and most splendid specimen of the art. At the Soho Foundry, their Royal Highnesses were shown the principal operations of the smithy, as boiler-making, casting of brass and iron, boring mills, turning and fitting departments employed in making steam-engines, &c. Their Royal Highnesses also visited the Society of Arts ; and the Duchess ex-

pressed to the gentlemen forming the committee of that society, her desire to become a patroness together with her daughter. "I have much pleasure," said her Royal Highness, "in visiting this valuable Institution, and could wish, as a mark of the feeling with which the Princess and myself must ever recollect Birmingham, that we should be henceforth considered as its patronesses."

Upon its being mentioned to the Duchess that there was no public room in Birmingham except the news-room; and that it would be felt as a great compliment if their Royal Highnesses visited it, they immediately assented, and proceeded thither from the Society of Arts. They commented upon the general arrangements of the room with the utmost good humour, admired its dimensions and conveniences, and both of them spontaneously entered their names in the visitors' book. The respectable inhabitants were freely admitted, under proper regulations, to all these institutions during the progress of the royal visitors, and had thus an opportunity of observing, not only the person and manners of the heiress presumptive, but the intelligent interest with which she entered into the passing scene. It was remarked with pleasure that she attended closely to every thing that was offered to her notice, frequently asking very pertinent questions and drawing shrewd conclusions. Her powers of attention appeared extraordinary for her age, and her memory extremely retentive, which indeed phrenologists would infer from the prominence of her eyes.

RESIDENCE AT MALVERN.

THEIR Royal Highnesses occupied Hollymount, the seat of Thomas Woodyatt, Esq., during their residence at Malvern; and here for ten weeks the young Princess enjoyed the invigorating air of these beautiful downs, and free exercise, unrestrained by the trammels of etiquette. Their presence, during this lengthened period, was a source of great delight to the inhabitants, whose affections were irresistibly attracted to the exemplary mother and her interesting child, by their gracious and affable demeanour, by their extensive charities, and by the piety and moral excellence which marked their whole conduct. The unostentatious manner in which these exalted ladies mingled with the public in walking to and from the venerable abbey church every Sunday, generally twice; and in the frequent trips of the little Princess to the waterside to feed the ducks, as a child of the middling ranks might be supposed to do, were particularly gratifying. Their Royal Highnesses walked or rode upon the downs for many hours daily, but their excursions were by no means confined to the immediate vicinity of their residence, for they favoured Worcester several times with their presence; inspected its far-famed porcelain manufactories; making extensive purchases; attended its triennial music meeting in the cathedral, the first appearance of the Princess in a large public assembly; and joined with much apparent zest in the amusements of its race-course;

they also visited Hereford and Cheltenham, and were received at both places as at Worcester, with addresses, and every testimony of loyalty and attachment by the public authorities, as well as by the inhabitants individually. They likewise condescended to partake of a *déjeuner*, in company with a select circle, at Maddresfield Court, the seat of Earl Beauchamp ; at Eastnor Castle, the mansion of Earl Somers ; at Witley Court, Lord Foley's ; and at Croome, the residence of the Earl of Coventry. On the latter occasion, after partaking of refreshment, a lengthened train of open carriages were put in requisition to convey the party over the beautiful grounds, to the church, the flower garden, the panorama, and, finally, to Severn Bank, a minor, but much admired seat belonging to the noble earl. The *cortège*, consisting of above a dozen carriages from the most antiquated shape to those of the present day, with a handsome quota of attendants upon each, afforded great amusement to the Princess Victoria, who often looked back to view the effect with great animation, and reiterated expressions of delight.

It having been on one occasion announced that the Duchess and the Princess would visit a fancy bazaar, opened for a charitable purpose, at the library of Malvern, the opportunity thus presented of seeing their Royal Highnesses, was embraced by such numbers from Worcester and the vicinity, that the village was literally crowded in every part ; all kinds of vehicles, from the coroneted carriage-and-

four, to the humble donkey-cart, were put in requisition; and, at about eleven o'clock, formed one continuous line on the road from Newland to Malvern. Soon after twelve, the Earl Beauchamp and the Rev. Dr. Card, the vicar, conducted their Royal Highnesses to the library; but they had no sooner entered, than the persons from without passing rapidly into the room, it became immediately so crowded, that the royal visitors could approach very few of the stalls. They made, however, several purchases, and the sales, which were of course highly benefited by their presence, realized £140.

The effect upon the Princess of this temporary relaxation from her studies, became speedily visible in the renewed bloom of her cheek, and the merry glance of her blue eye, expressive equally of improved health and energy of constitution, and of generously unfolding intellect. During the last three weeks of this agreeable abode at Malvern, the royal party was joined by Prince Léopold, whose society, of course, added greatly to the enjoyment of these varied amusements, both to the Duchess and her daughter.

MALVERN ANECDOTES.

THE Princess Victoria used to take an airing constantly in her pony phaeton, whenever the weather permitted, and frequently passed the cottage of an old woman, who was remarkable for the enthusiastic manner in which she expressed her

attachment towards her. Driving past one morning as usual, the old lady, standing on her humble threshold, clasped her hands together, and exclaimed, "God bless you, sweet Princess; may you live to be Queen of England!" The dear child immediately stood upright in her carriage, and bowing gracefully, replied with earnestness, "I thank you, Ma'am."

Walking one day on the downs, she amused herself (as was her frequent habit) by running on before her mother and governess, accompanied by her beautiful little dog Pero, till she overtook a little girl of about her own age, of the peasant class, but neatly dressed, with whom probably she wished to enter into conversation, or otherwise really thinking that her dog was fatigued, she thus addressed her young companion, "My dog is very tired, will you carry him for me, if you please?" The good-natured child, quite unconscious of the exalted rank of the applicant, immediately complied, and taking the dog in her arms, tripped alongside the Princess for some time in cheerful chat; at length she said, "I am tired now, and cannot carry your dog any longer." "Tired!" said the Princess, "impossible; think what a little way you have carried him." "Quite far enough," was the unceremonious reply, "besides, I am going to my aunt's, and if your dog must be carried, why cannot you carry him yourself?" So saying, she replaced Pero on the grass, and he again joyfully frisked beside his royal mistress. "Going to your aunt's," said the Princess,

"and who is your aunt?" "Mrs. Johnson, the miller's wife." "And where does she live?" "In that pretty little white house, which you see just at the bottom of the hill;" and the youthful pair stood still that the Princess might make sure she was right, thus giving time for the Duchess and the Baroness Lehzen to come up to them. "Oh! I should like to see her," exclaimed the merry Princess, "I will go with you, so let us run down the hill together." "No, no, my Princess," said the Baroness, taking her Royal Highness's hand, "you have conversed long enough with that little girl, and now the Duchess wishes you to walk with her." At the word Princess, the peasant child, blushing and trembling, earnestly begged pardon for the liberties she had taken, but was kindly thanked by the Duchess for her trouble in carrying the Princess Victoria's dog, and recompensed by the gift of half-a-crown. She curtsied her thanks, and ran briskly to her aunt's, where she related all that had passed, and particularly dwelt upon the apprehensions she had felt, when she found that it was the Princess whom she had desired to carry her dog for herself. The half-crown was afterwards framed, and hung up in the homely parlour, as a memento of this pleasing adventure.

PROGRESS HOMEWARDS.

BEFORE returning to Kensington Palace, the Duchess of Kent resolved upon making a short tour,

for the mutual introduction of the heiress presumptive and a portion of her future subjects to each other ; and also with the view of accustoming the Princess to inquire into the circumstances for which the principal cities of the empire are remarkable, as regards either history, commerce, or manufactures.

At Gloucester, whither they proceeded direct from Malvern, they viewed the extensive shipping with surprise and pleasure ; and the Princess especially, expressed herself highly delighted with watching the whole process of pin-making at the manufactory of Messrs. Durnford and Co. After viewing the cathedral, they proceeded to the palace of the bishop of the diocese, Dr. Monk, where they were met at the entrance by his lady and youthful daughters, the latter preceding them up the great hall, and strewing flowers in their path. Here their Royal Highnesses were presented with addresses by the clergy and corporation, and it was remarkable that the Princess Victoria, seated on the left hand of her mother, occupied the identical chair which was used under similar circumstances by her august grandfather, King George the Third, in the year 1788. In connexion with this interesting coincidence, it was generally and justly remarked, that she bore a striking family resemblance to that monarch.

At Clifton, their next resting-place, the royal party received the mayor and corporation of Bristol ; and after passing some hours in admiring the varied and beautiful scenery which abounds in this vicinity,

they passed through Bristol without halting, on their road to Bath.

At Bath they remained two days, in order to make themselves acquainted with every thing worthy of notice in that attractive city ; they were received as they had been throughout their route with an enthusiastic welcome ; and the answer of the Duchess of Kent to the address presented by the mayor excited so much interest, and so justly, in the hearts of all who heard it, that the following extract from it can scarcely be misplaced here :—

“ Our temporary residence at Malvern this Summer has allowed the Princess and myself to visit various parts of the country ; our reception every where has been so marked by good and kind feeling, as to make the most indelible impression upon us. It will ever be my care that that impression is strengthened in the Princess, as the happiness of her future life must depend upon meriting the continuance of such attachment : and I fondly hope to train her to repay it by that line of conduct which is suitable to the station Providence may destine her to fill—I hope at a very distant day—in this great, free, and enlightened country.” But it was not the custom of the Royal Duchess to allow her gratified feelings to expend themselves in words ; here, as at all the places which she had honoured with even the shortest sojourn, she left substantial proofs of her liberality and benevolence, in large subscriptions not only to the principal charities, but to the

local institutions, whether dedicated to architectural improvements, literature, or amusement. But in addition to all this, her Royal Highness embalmed her memory in the hearts of the inhabitants of Bath by the munificent contribution of £20 a year, towards the maintenance of Mary Ann Watts, an interesting little orphan, who had been providentially rescued from a watery grave upon the wreck of the *Newry Packet*, on the Carnarvonshire coast, in the preceding April. Fervently is it to be hoped that our youthful Queen will ever retain a vivid impression of the extended principles of active benevolence thus inculcated in her childhood, for every pound thus expended from the royal coffers will, we are taught to believe, return abundantly in heavenly blessings on the royal head, and through her, upon the nation of which she is the beloved and worthy ruler.

Before quitting Bath the Princess and her mother rode in an open carriage through the park, then newly laid out, and seemed much pleased with the tasteful arrangement of the plantations, drives and walks. The Duchess, in expressing her thanks to the mayor for the kind feeling universally manifested in the city towards both herself and her daughter, signified the ready assent of the Princess to the park being henceforth denominated *The Royal Victoria Park*.

From Bath the royal party proceeded to Erlestoke, the residence of Watson Taylor, Esq., in the immediate vicinity of Devizes, at which town they

stopped to change horses, and thus gave many of the inhabitants an opportunity of observing their person and manners ; the Princess, in particular, herself put down the window of the carriage for the greater gratification of the spectators ; and by entering into conversation with Mr. Thomas Estcourt, then member for Marlborough, who stood near, was prominently visible to all around. She made of Mr. Estcourt some minute inquiries respecting the early life of Sir Thomas Lawrence, which she understood had been passed at the very house she was now stopping at ; and it was to Erlestoke Park, that one of the very early crayon drawings of the late president was transmitted for the inspection of the Princess, together with a manuscript containing some reminiscences of the infantine years of Sir Thomas, collected from an authentic source ; her Royal Highness was much gratified with both, and completed (as before mentioned) during her brief sojourn here, a very spirited sketch of the picture. She also accepted some copies of a lithographic engraving of the beautiful Market Cross at Devizes, which were not presented for the intrinsic worth of the engravings but for the solemn and remarkable event which is thus recorded by inscription on the east side of the column :

“ The Mayor and Corporation of Devizes avail themselves of the stability of this building, to transmit to future times the record of an awful event, which occurred in this Market-Place, in the year 1753 ; hoping that such record may serve as a salutary warning against the danger of impiously invoking

Divine vengeance, or of calling on the Holy Name of God to conceal the devices of falsehood and fraud. On Thursday, the 25th January, 1753, Ruth Pierce, of Potterne, in this county, agreed with three other women to buy a sack of wheat in the market, each paying her due proportion towards the same. One of these women, in collecting the several quotas of money, discovered a deficiency, and demanded of Ruth Pierce the sum which was wanting to make good the amount; Ruth Pierce protested, that she had paid her share; and said, '*She wished she might drop down dead, if she had not.*' She rashly repeated this awful wish; when, to the consternation and terror of the surrounding multitude, she instantly fell down and expired, having the money concealed in her hand."

Their Royal Highnesses and suite, with their hospitable host and family, attended Divine service on Sunday in the picturesque church of Erlestoke. The morning being beautifully fine, and the desire to see the illustrious visitors general, several hundred persons, from many miles around, were attracted to the village; at eleven o'clock the royal party entered the church, the aisle of which was lined by the charity children. The service was most impressively performed by the Rev. William Fisher, Rector of Poulshot, Wilts, one of the Duchess of Kent's domestic chaplains, who also delivered an excellent and appropriate sermon. In the evening a select party met the royal visitors at dinner, when the Duchess personally expressed her thanks to the Mayor of Devizes for the very affectionate reception she and her daughter had met with from the inhabitants of that town. Their Royal Highnesses were highly delighted with the lovely scenery which sur-

rounds Erlestone Park, and quitted that delightful spot with regret at noon on Monday for Salisbury. On their road thither they viewed that stupendous vestige of antiquity, Stonehenge, in the history of which the Princess was much interested.

At Salisbury, where their Royal Highnesses passed one night, they viewed the magnificent cathedral, and visited the cutlery and carpet manufactories.

But it was at Southampton, whither they next proceeded, that the most joyous and enthusiastic reception they had yet experienced awaited them ; the line of route for several miles was thronged with anxious spectators, but as they approached Southampton the crowd gradually increased until the multitude became immense, and the enthusiasm of the populace breaking through all restraint, the horses were disengaged from the carriage, in despite of the remonstrances of the Duchess, and the young Princess felt the novel sensation of being rapidly and steadily drawn, through a temporary triumphal arch, into the town by her future subjects, while the by-standers expressed their delight in loud and reiterated huzzas. Arrived at the Star Hotel, the Duchess and her lovely daughter alighted, and shortly afterwards appeared on the balcony ; a chair was placed for England's fair young hope to stand on, that her person might be the better seen by the thousands who filled the streets, the windows, and the adjacent houses. The Duchess was much affected by this warmth of public feeling, and her beautiful little

daughter, timid yet delighted, curtsied her thanks and was greeted with renewed congratulations, High and low, rich and poor, all seemed equally to enjoy this interesting spectacle, which so strikingly illustrated the language of the poet :

“ Ye must all see *the child* to-day, and she must thank ye.

—— This day let no man say he has

Business at his house, for all must stay—

This little One shall make it holiday.”

The fatigues of the journey rendered it necessary for the young Princess to retire early to bed, but the next morning the royal party viewed the town, and visited the public buildings. They also received at the Audit House an address from the Mayor and Corporation, who expressed an anxious desire to entertain their Royal Highnesses there, but the Duchess, ever awake to her maternal interests, represented her daughter's youth as an insuperable objection to her partaking of a public breakfast.

The last visit of this gratifying excursion was, however, by far the most important, and fraught with the most pleasurable feelings for the royal ladies. They arrived at Portsmouth from Southampton to a late dinner, and devoted the whole of the next day to a minute examination of the *Royal George* yacht, and the *St. Vincent* man-of-war, remaining above an hour on board each of these vessels ; also to a lengthened survey of the dock-yard establishment, every branch of which excited

their highest interest. The Duchess expressed her peculiar pleasure in bringing the Princess to this great arsenal, where her mind would be naturally led to associate with all she saw the recollection of those naval triumphs which so eminently and brilliantly distinguish the history of our country. From Portsmouth, their Royal Highnesses proceeded direct to Claremont, where they spent some weeks in retirement, and in the enjoyment of Prince Leopold's society.

THE REGENCY BILL.

THE first act of King William's new parliament was a provision for the government of the country, in case of the death of the king during the minority of his successor.

His Majesty, in his speech from the throne upon the opening of the session, made known his wishes upon this subject in the following terms:—

“My Lords and Gentlemen, I am impelled by the deep solicitude which I feel for the welfare of my people, to recommend to your immediate consideration the provisions which it may be advisable to make for the exercise of the royal authority, in case that it should please Almighty God to terminate my life before my successor shall have arrived at years of maturity. I shall be prepared to concur with you in the adoption of those measures which may appear best calculated to maintain unimpaired

the stability and dignity of the crown, and thereby to strengthen the securities by which the civil and religious liberties of my people are guarded."

In compliance with his Majesty's commands, the two Houses of Parliament proceeded almost immediately to the consideration of this important matter. The proposition made by the Lord Chancellor Lyndhurst, in the House of Lords, was as well received by the public as by that illustrious house. The domestic virtues of the royal mother were crowned with the highest reward a nation could bestow—a nation's confidence. The learned lord laid his plan before the house with his usual perspicuity; it was short, simple, and, as he properly anticipated, popular. Government, he said, had endeavoured to provide for the most urgent case, without embarrassing itself with imaginary events or improbable contingencies. The great questions were—At what age was the majority of the Princess Victoria, the heiress presumptive to the throne, now in her twelfth year, to be determined? Who was to be the guardian of her person? and what the form of a regency for the kingdom, in the event of a demise of the crown? Long and long, his lordship hoped, it would be before such a contingency should arise, a sentiment which was responded to from all parts of the house, but it was the duty of the legislature to provide with prudent foresight for events that might in possibility occur. He then proposed that her Royal Highness's majority be fixed at eighteen years of age; that her mother,

upon whose maternal affection and domestic devotion he pronounced an eloquent and just eulogium, should be the guardian of her person and regent of the kingdom ; and that the powers thus conferred upon the Duchess of Kent be unqualified by any control whatever. His lordship pointed out the dangers of a regency council ; the rational fears to be apprehended from the influence of ambitious individuals ; the unpopularity and invidiousness of such influence ; and, finally, the complete identification of the mother, who could not herself in any event succeed to the crown, with the interests of the infant Queen. He showed that the precedents of 1751 and 1810 did not apply to the case. The Duchess of Kent, he repeated, should be sole guardian of the child, and regent of the kingdom, till her daughter was of lawful age, without any other control than that of the ordinary responsible ministers of the crown ; and the only exception to be made was the case of a posthumous child to her present Majesty. In such an event, as it might be presumed that parliament could not immediately or conveniently legislate, it was provided that her Majesty should then be placed, to all intents and purposes, in the same situation with respect to her child that the Duchess of Kent now stood in with respect to the Princess Victoria. For any contingency during his Majesty's life, it was assumed that parliament would be always able to provide. Upon this foundation, then, a bill was speedily drawn up, a clause being inserted, at the recommendation of Prince Leopold,

prohibiting the Duchess of Kent from marrying a foreigner during her regency, as his Royal Highness and his august sister were both desirous that the objections raised to Queen Charlotte in 1786, and to Caroline, Queen of George the Second in 1751, on the ground that they were foreigners, and subject to the probability of foreign interference, should in this instance be removed from the regent during the minority of the future Queen of England.

The perfect unanimity with which this act was passed, and the testimony borne during the debates upon it to the character and conduct of the royal Duchess, by the most eminent men in both houses of parliament, are proud records for the mother of our Queen to look back upon, and it is not too much to assert, that every word uttered within those walls on the occasion, was re-echoed by the country at large, which rejoiced in the opportunity of offering so worthy a tribute of gratitude to the illustrious lady for the unwearied assiduity and zeal, the tenderness and judgment she had hitherto evinced in that important and precious charge—the education of her royal daughter for the almost fearfully exalted station to which it appeared that in all human probability she would be ultimately called. This momentous question, which had been discussed in all sorts of assemblies, both public and private, for some months past, was thus decided in the most satisfactory manner to all parties ; and had it pleased Providence to give effect to these legislative provisions,

there can be no doubt but the brief rule of the regent Duchess would have been hailed with affectionate loyalty by a united people.

CONDUCT OF THE KING AND QUEEN TOWARDS
THE HEIRESS PRESUMPTIVE.

THE affection which their Majesties had always expressed towards the young Princess, suffered no diminution from the altered position in which the royal personages now stood towards each other, and, indeed, it was remarked with satisfaction, that his Majesty and the Queen both appeared to take great pleasure in placing the youthful and interesting heiress before the eyes of their subjects whenever a fair opportunity presented itself. When his Majesty went in state to prorogue the parliament a few weeks after his accession, the Queen and the female members of the royal family viewed the procession from the palace windows, and afterwards from the gardens overlooking the park. On both occasions, the Queen held one hand of the little Princess, whilst the Duchess of Kent retained the other, thus introducing her, as it were, to the populace, whose acclamations she was directed to acknowledge conjointly with the Queen, and which, it may be readily imagined, were redoubled at the sight.

On the meeting of the new parliament, when the King was about to open his views with respect to the contemplated regency, his Majesty had no sooner

taken his seat upon the throne, than with a good sense and a good feeling which made its way to the hearts of all, he pointed out the heiress presumptive to the especial notice of her future subjects, by calling her to his side, and conversing with her in the most affectionate manner during the intervals which occurred in the course of the imposing ceremony.

Also, at the drawing-room held by the Queen for the celebration of her birth-day, the Princess Victoria, at the express desire of her Majesty, made her first public appearance at court, and standing at the Queen's left hand, looked very beautiful and interesting. Her Royal Highness was dressed with great simplicity in a frock of English blond over white satin, with a pretty simple pearl necklace, and one small diamond ornament in her fair hair, which was braided in front, and turned up behind. She was in the highest spirits, and greatly delighted with the novelty of the scene; she stood beside the Queen for nearly three hours, and became naturally very much heated and fatigued towards the conclusion of the ceremonies.

UNFOUNDED RUMOURS OF ILL HEALTH.

THIS evident desire on the part of the King to exhibit his blooming heiress on all suitable occasions to his court and people, was probably in some measure urged by the prevalence of reports respecting the delicate health and diseased constitution of

the Princess. In fact it was difficult at this precise period, for those who were personally unacquainted with her, to ascertain whether her Royal Highness was well or ill, or whether indeed she could or could not walk. One daily journal truly asserted that there was not a more promising little heir presumptive to any throne in Europe, reporting her to be deeply engaged in numerous and important studies, and exhibiting not only a quick perception and excellent memory, but a full and constant flow of cheerful spirits. Another, on the contrary, represented her as pallid and enfeebled, and suffering so much from weakness in the ankles as to be wheeled in a Bath chair from one room to another. In order to substantiate this statement, the following extract was given from a pamphlet said to have been written by the late Sir Richard Croft:—"There is the young Princess Victoria, whom I am in the daily habit of seeing; what with her trowsers, her ribbons, her boots, her feathers, and her attendants, the child is as absolutely unable to stir, as was Sancho Panza, when he lay armed and prostrate in the breach! It is grievous to see her in her confined apparel; she has not half the natural activity of a child at her years. She may well be diminutive, yet the Duke of Kent was a fine man and the Duchess is far from short." It will scarcely be believed, though such is actually the fact, that Sir Richard Croft died under melancholy circumstances in the month of February, 1818, more than a year prior to the birth of the royal infant, whom he is repre-

sented to describe in terms so entirely inapplicable to the rosy, healthy, animated child, whose sportive gambols have many times exhilarated the spirits and excited the affections of numerous spectators. For what purpose such rumours were set afloat it is difficult to imagine; it was whispered, though probably unjustly, that they had their origin in high places; however that may be, the person of the youthful Princess was too well known to the country to allow it to be long deceived by such palpable misrepresentation. At Tunbridge Wells, at Malvern, at Kensington, at Birmingham, and a variety of other places, her Royal Highness had been remarked by admiring crowds as one of the finest girls of her age in the kingdom; and failing lineal issue on the part of the reigning monarch, that kingdom was fully prepared to receive in this interesting scion of the House of Brunswick, the offspring and pupil of a wise, moral, and upright Prince, and of a virtuous and accomplished Princess, the fulfilment of hopes so unhappily lavished on the lamented Princess Charlotte. A letter from a gentleman intimately acquainted with the Princess says:—"The controversy which has arisen as to the state of the Princess Victoria's health, makes me desirous of stating from personal knowledge the real facts of the case. Her Royal Highness is in perfectly good health, and eats, drinks and sleeps accordingly. She is in excellent spirits, talks constantly, and is able to bear considerable exertion in the course of her studies, to which she pays greater attention than can be reason-

ably expected at her years." And again, a venerable dignitary of the church in the frequent habit of visiting at the palace, on being questioned as to the truth of the reports respecting her Royal Highness's lameness, quaintly replied;—"If they are true the Duchess of Kent must be a hard-hearted parent, as I rarely visit her Royal Highness, but she exercises the feet of her little daughter by sending her to all parts of the palace on her messages."

THE DEAN OF CHESTER.

Soon after the accession of Earl Grey to office his Lordship proposed to the Duchess of Kent, by the King's desire, the appointment of a bishop to preside over the education of the young Princess. The Duchess, however, declined the offer, observing that she was perfectly well satisfied with the manner in which the Rev. Mr. Davys performed his duties, and did not desire any change in this department of her daughter's establishment. A short time afterwards Earl Grey again visited her Royal Highness, by the King's command, to intimate that his Majesty, having taken into consideration the exalted station which the young Princess now held in the country, thought it desirable that a dignitary of the church should hold the responsible office of director of her studies; and wished to suggest to her Royal Highness's approbation the Bishop of Lincoln, as a proper person to be entrusted with so important

a charge. Her Royal Highness commissioned his Lordship with her grateful thanks for the interest his Majesty had graciously expressed in the welfare of her august daughter, and observed that she could only repeat her perfect satisfaction at the Princess's progress under the able tuition of her present preceptor, adding that she was far from wishing to oppose any of the views of his Majesty ; and, indeed, that she perfectly coincided in them as regarded the propriety of the Princess's establishment being headed by a dignitary of the church ; " But, my Lord," said her Royal Highness, with that dignity of manner for which she is so remarkable, " There can surely be no difficulty in preferring Mr. Davys to the dignities of the church." In consequence of this conversation Mr. Davys was very shortly preferred to the Deanery of Chester.

THE DUCHESS OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

THE appointment of this high-born, amiable, and accomplished lady to the office of governess, afforded universal satisfaction to the nation ; one more worthy of, or better qualified for, the important trust confided to her, could scarcely have been selected from the whole circle of British nobility. The Queen Adelaide and the Duchess of Kent united their efforts to prevail upon her Grace to accept the appointment ; and having once succeeded in gaining her consent to the arrangement, the attentions of the Duchess to her royal charge were unremitting. Every day, whilst resident in London, she passed

several hours in the society of the young Princess, who soon became most affectionately attached to her; and during the absence of the Duchess on her annual visits to the North, an interesting correspondence was always kept up between them. The Baroness Lehzen, however, still retained her importance in the household of the Princess, and forwarded with assiduity and skill all the plans of the royal mother and the Duchess of Northumberland. On occasions of the public appearance of the heiress presumptive, the Duchess invariably attended her, forming a most dignified and appropriate addition to her suite.

Her Grace is the only surviving daughter of the venerable Earl of Powis; she was born on the 12th of Sept. 1787, and was married on the 29th of April, 1817, to Hugh, the present and third Duke of Northumberland, but has no children. In addition to her high mental acquirements she possesses great personal beauty and much dignity of address.

FIRST PUBLIC VISIT TO THE THEATRE.

In January 1831, the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria, having commanded the performances at Covent Garden Theatre, the audience were gratified for the first time by the public appearance of the young Princess. The pantomime having been ordered for performance early in the evening, the boxes were crowded with children, and it was very pretty to contemplate their little merry faces in eager expectation of the feats of Harlequin and

Columbine. The Duchess and the Princess occupied Prince Leopold's box, the second from the stage on the left side of the House. They arrived a few minutes before the curtain rose, and were welcomed by the audience, but did not acknowledge the attention, sat rather back, and appeared desirous to avoid the public notice. The royal party, however, were not generally observed until after the laughable farce of "The Hundred Pound Note;" but the call for "God save the King," which became more and more general as the presence of the illustrious visitors was gradually recognized, had a truly gratifying effect. The applause at the conclusion of the national anthem was universal, warm and heartfelt. The demeanour of the young Princess gave general satisfaction; indeed she acknowledged with a frankness and simplicity of manner, highly attractive, the demonstrations of affectionate loyalty that greeted her on all sides. Her curtsy was both dignified and graceful; and it was pleasing to observe that when all eyes were directed upon the future Queen, she seemed to think nothing of half so much importance to her as her mother, upon whose arm she leant affectionately, while both were evidently affected by the attachment evinced towards the youthful Princess. Her Royal Highness was highly amused during the performance of the pantomime, sometimes laughing heartily; and, as she stood up nearly the whole time, was distinctly visible to every one present; she talked much to her mother, and occasionally across her to Lady Charlotte St. Maur; but it was observed as a pleas-

ing trait in her disposition, that when anything appeared particularly to strike or amuse her, she immediately turned round to point it out to the Baroness Lehzen, who stood behind her. She watched the stage very eagerly during the whole of the pantomime, as though desirous to unravel the mysteries of the feats and transformations with which it abounded. She was plainly dressed in white muslin ; her hair, parted off her forehead with two small diamond combs, hung in a very few short ringlets over each cheek. She looked pale at first, but her colour rose with the warmth and excitement of the evening, until she became much flushed ; and the animation of her eyes was very striking.

THE TWELFTH BIRTH-DAY.

THE day on which her Royal Highness completed her twelfth year, being the first birth-day since the accession of King William, was observed with much more state than had hitherto attended such celebrations. Early in the morning the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria received the Duchess of Northumberland, and all the ladies and gentlemen of the household, to pay their respects to their Royal Highnesses and to offer their compliments on the return of the day. In the afternoon the Queen and all the members of the royal family assembled at Kensington Palace to congratulate their juvenile relative, and to present her with numerous and costly tokens of affection. The Duchess of Gordon also, having heard of the death of one of the Shetland ponies formerly presented by her to the

Princess, seized this opportunity of renewing her gift; and two very beautiful piebald ponies, whom the Princess afterwards named Huntly and Beauty, were on this occasion offered by the Duchess to her Royal Highness's acceptance. The foreign ministers and many of the nobility and gentry called at the palace in the course of the day to leave their cards; and in the evening their Majesties gave a juvenile ball at St. James's Palace in honour of the day, at which the young heiress appeared, in contradiction of the sinister reports already alluded to, in high health and spirits, and danced all the evening with much enjoyment, and with a grace which attracted universal admiration. Her Royal Highness chose her cousin, Prince George of Cumberland, for her first partner, then Prince George of Cambridge, and afterwards honoured the sons of the Austrian and Russian ambassadors with her hand. The Marquis of Granby was the only native noble so distinguished on the present occasion. At the royal banquet the Princess presided in the middle of a cross table, having the two young Princes on her right and left; and was by this means distinctly visible to all the youthful throng, who occupied seats at four other tables which ran the whole length of the room. Shortly after supper the Duchess of Kent and her daughter retired, the latter having warmly expressed her thanks to the King and Queen for the pleasure she had enjoyed. Their Majesties always afterwards celebrated the birth-day of their royal niece with similar honours.

AIRINGS IN HYDE PARK.

DURING this and each succeeding summer, it was the custom of the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria to walk for a considerable time every fine day in Hyde Park; and the circumstance becoming generally known, excited much interest amongst the class of persons whose habits led them to that locality. The opportunity was gladly taken advantage of by many to observe the light step and healthful countenance of the heiress presumptive, so entirely at variance with the rumours in circulation; and reminded them strongly of the childhood of the Princess Charlotte, who was also constantly seen in her airings in the park, which were, however, always taken in a carriage and not on foot. The very striking resemblance at this time existing between the cousins was the subject of general remark; as was also the impression of perfect happiness which the countenance of the Princess strongly exhibited, as in the enjoyment of endearing intercourse with her beloved mother, she joyously passed, unconscious of the attention she attracted, except when respectful salutes from the spectators called for an acknowledgment, and this was always given with a graceful courtesy which won the hearts of those towards whom it was directed. Their Royal Highnesses were on these occasions followed by a carriage, in which they could take shelter in case of a sudden shower; and generally, when their walk was concluded, drove once or twice round the park before returning home.

LEOPOLD, KING OF THE BELGIANS.

THE departure of Prince Leopold to take upon himself the sovereignty of the Belgian nation, was a source of much personal regret to the young Princess and her royal mother. The Prince had always acted so truly paternal a part by his infant niece; and had contributed so greatly, not only to the outward establishment, but to the domestic happiness of his sister and her precious charge, that they could not see him depart permanently from our shores without poignant feelings of sorrow for their own bereavement, by no means unmixed with anxiety for the future prospects of so dear a relative. Their last interview, as might naturally be expected under such circumstances, was deeply affecting. The young Princess shed tears abundantly, and would not at first be comforted. The Prince, however, promised frequent letters, and they came accordingly to both sister and niece; and he promised also his temporary presence occasionally in this country. The latter engagement has also been kept whenever circumstances have permitted; and apparently for the exclusive benefit of these attached relatives, as his Majesty never appeared in public, and has entered very little into general society during his several brief visits to this country. He has, however, always been received with delight by the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria; and during his residence at Windsor

Castle with his consort last autumn, our youthful Queen bore visible evidence of her happiness in her countenance and demeanour. Her attachment to this royal uncle is very strong, and almost extraordinary, considering her tender years at the period of his leaving England.

ADDITIONAL PARLIAMENTARY GRANT.

IMMEDIATELY upon Prince Leopold's departure, the King sent, through his ministers, a message to the House of Commons, stating that "circumstances had arisen which made it proper that a more adequate provision should be made for her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, and for the honourable support and education of the Princess Alexandrina-Victoria; and recommending the consideration thereof to that House, relying upon the attachment of his faithful Commons to adopt such measures as might be suitable to the occasion." In taking the royal message into consideration, Lord Althorp, Chancellor of the Exchequer, observed, that in consequence of the assumption of a foreign sovereignty by Prince Leopold, his Royal Highness was no longer in a situation to grant to the Duchess of Kent that liberal assistance, which had hitherto enabled her to maintain the dignity of her station upon a very limited parliamentary allowance. His Lordship stated, that in the proposition he was about to make, he had taken the establishment of the late Princess Charlotte of Wales, who, as heir presump-

tive to the throne, stood in a similar position to the Princess Victoria, as a precedent ; and said that the income of that lamented Princess had amounted to £17,000 per annum after the completion of her tenth year. He therefore proposed that an addition of £10,000 per annum should be granted to the £6,000 already enjoyed by the Princess Victoria, which would place her nearly on a level with the late Princess Charlotte ; and would, when added to the £6,000 per annum, the exclusive property of the Duchess of Kent, make the whole income, jointly applicable to the royal establishment at Kensington Palace, amount to £22,000 per annum. This proposition was agreed to by both houses of parliament, with only one dissentient voice, that of the late Mr. Henry Hunt, the celebrated member for Preston ; and with many of those tributes of affectionate approbation of the character and conduct of the Royal Duchess, which have invariably accompanied the mention of her name in either of the legislative assemblies.

OPINION OF QUEEN ELIZABETH.

It was about this period that the Bishops of London and Lincoln, at the especial request of the Duchess of Kent, examined into the progress of the young Princess's education ; and they were enabled to send a highly satisfactory report to the King, of her Royal Highness's proficiency in all those branches of study which were included within

the limits of their inquiry. The good disposition and excellent discrimination of the Princess, were eminently evinced in her answer to one of the right reverend prelates, who, observing that her Royal Highness had been lately reading the history of England, asked what opinion she had formed of Queen Elizabeth? The Princess, with the modesty and timid deference which forms so interesting a part of her character, immediately replied, "*I think that Queen Elizabeth was a very great Queen, but I am not quite sure that she was so good a woman.*" Their lordships considered that her Royal Highness's capacity was extraordinary for her years; her facility at learning appeared to be very great, and her acuteness so remarkable, that if fifty persons were assembled in the same room with her, she would have her eye upon each, and know how every one was employed.

RESIDENCE IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

NORRIS Castle, East Cowes, was this season chosen for the marine residence of the Princess and her royal mother, and here they lived for several months in the enjoyment of the sea breezes, and entering with hearty frankness into the various recreations which this delightful vicinity affords. The Emerald yacht was in attendance, and in it the royal party made frequent excursions on the water; they also visited by land almost every quarter of this romantic island. They went several times to Ports-

mouth, and the Princess again entered with ardour into various details connected with the navy, which were brought under her notice at this great national *depôt*. They were everywhere received with the affectionate welcome their many and unostentatious virtues so justly merited ; their presence contributed to the welfare and happiness of thousands. The inhabitants rejoiced in the impetus that the liberal expenditure of their large household gave to trade, as well as in the influx of strangers which their example attracted. The visitors were delighted with the affability and spirit with which the royal ladies joined in all the amusements of the place ; attending the regattas, archery meetings, &c. &c. The higher classes were especially gratified by constant intercourse with their Royal Highnesses, of whose hospitality all persons of rank, resident in the neighbourhood, repeatedly partook ; and above all, the poor blessed them as they passed, for the substantial benefits they were daily reaping at their hands, through the medium of their extensive charities, both public and private. On the coronation day in particular, their Royal Highnesses made the hearts of the poor to leap for joy ; and by their active benevolence gave a zest to the loyalty which the occasion was so well calculated to inspire.

The most striking public gala, which occurred during this visit, was occasioned by the laying of the foundation-stone of a chapel of ease to Whippingham Church, East Cowes, by the Princess Victoria in person, on Wednesday the 14th of

September, 1831. An ornamented tent, surmounted by a royal standard, had been previously erected near to the site of the intended new building, for the reception of the Princess and her party, and at about twelve o'clock, her Royal Highness, accompanied by her mother, the Duchess of Northumberland, the Baroness Lehzen and suite, with a great number of nobility, walked from Norris Castle to the appointed spot, preceded by a military band; the different clubs with their various banners, and the children of the several national schools of East and West Cowes. On their arrival, a royal salute was fired, and flags were seen waving in all directions. Their Royal Highnesses were received on the ground, and conducted to their tent by the Honourable Frederick Pleydell Bouverie, the rector of Whippingham, whilst a large assemblage of the rank and fashion of the island were accommodated with temporary seats immediately adjoining. The ceremony commenced with an address by the rector, after which a hymn was sung by the charity children; the young Princess then came forward, and aided by Mr. Nash, the architect, deposited the various coins, &c., spread the mortar, and finally assisted her royal parent in lowering the stone to its proper place. As soon as this was completed, appropriate prayers were read by Mr. Bouverie, and the royal party having re-entered their tent, two psalms suitable to the occasion were sung by the assembled multitude. Their Royal Highnesses now received the congratulations of the privileged class, and soon afterwards

left the ground, accompanied in their open carriage by the Duchess of Northumberland and Lady Catherine Jenkinson, and followed by another, in which were the Baroness Lehzen, and Sir John and Lady Conroy. They drove off amidst the firing of cannon, the ringing of bells, the performance of the national anthem by the band, and the hearty cheers of all present. The Duchess of Kent with her accustomed benevolence provided an excellent dinner of roast beef and plumb pudding for all the charity children in the parish, in an adjoining meadow; the members of the benefit societies attending were also entertained with a variety of refreshments by order of their Royal Highnesses, and every one departed to his home pleased and gratified by the occurrences of the day.

CORONATION OF KING WILLIAM.

SEVERE was the disappointment occasioned by the absence of the heiress presumptive from this imposing ceremonial; next to the King and his august consort, the popular anticipation had decidedly rested with the greatest interest upon the appearance of the young Princess on this occasion, and the country was desirous also of an opportunity of expressing its sense of gratitude towards her estimable mother, for the excellent education which it was well known her little daughter was receiving under her own immediate inspection: but these hopes and wishes were suddenly damped by the

announcement, only two days before the appointed ceremony, that their Royal Highnesses did not intend quitting their retirement in the Isle of Wight, to participate in the solemnities of the occasion. No sooner was this information ascertained to be correct, than an angry and prolonged discussion arose amongst those leaders of the public mind, the daily newspapers, upon the cause of this apparently extraordinary resolution. It is needless here to recapitulate the various arguments used by the one party, to prove that the Royal Duchess was actuated by motives of party spirit and disrespect to the reigning sovereign, and therefore wholly unfit to be entrusted with the guardianship of the infant Princess, or by the other to exculpate her Royal Highness from these preposterous charges ; but it would be unjust to this illustrious lady, to withhold the general observations of a highly respectable periodical editor, whose ire had been naturally aroused by the arrogant and insulting tone assumed by some of his contemporaries.

“ When we read the atrocious article published in *The Times* of yesterday, we were unable either to comprehend its motive, or to supply an answer. Bound as we are to use all means to acquire information for our readers, we were wholly at a loss in what quarter to look for it. So absolutely has the Duchess of Kent abstracted herself from all political connexions, that we knew not, before yesterday morning, that she had a political enemy in the world. Recollecting, indeed, what her lost hus-

band's politics had been, and aware of her perfect devotion to his memory, we assumed that her politics were in accordance with those of the present ministers; nor do we yet know that this opinion was wrong. But, whatever her politics might be, we knew that she was an amiable and virtuous woman; and as such we could not contemplate the kind of attack made upon her without the most indignant feelings, and an earnest desire to defend her against her traducers.

"We accordingly prosecuted a diligent inquiry, and have been rewarded, by having opened to us a picture of the most brilliant and engaging virtues—we cannot say displayed—for she who exercises them conceals them as carefully as others would display them, but exercised in a rank where such virtues are unfortunately less common than in the humbler walks of life—we have seen in the mother of the future Queen of England the most vigilant and anxious parent, the kindest mistress, the most affectionate relative and friend, the most feeling and bounteous benefactress to her poor neighbours, and a woman of the strictest and most delicate morals; with above all—the most exalted piety. Such is the Duchess of Kent. Such is the excellent person from whom the writer in *The Times* would take her child—and describes as unfit to form the mind of a queen.

"We pass by the causes that have made the Duchess of Kent an object of resentment; and we own that we pass them by reluctantly; for, *having*

no relation whatever to politics, they would exalt her in the eyes of the virtuous of all parties—in the eyes of all who feel how anxious is the charge *of a daughter's education*, when that daughter is fatherless, and likely to be placed in circumstances of boundless temptation. Although the Duchess and the Princess her daughter are unavoidably prevented enjoying and assisting in this day's pageant, yet if they are pursuing at the present moment their usual daily occupations, they are not worse engaged—they are employed in deeds of active piety, in purchasing blessings for themselves, and in preparing them for the British people."

The real motives which led to the course adopted by the Duchess remain to this day generally unknown, although some pretty shrewd surmises, may be ventured upon, founded, as will presently appear, on very simple circumstances; suffice it to say, that the matter having been alluded to in the House of Commons, the Chancellor of the Exchequer observed that great misrepresentation had prevailed, and still continued to prevail upon the subject. It was not for him to state what were the reasons which induced her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria to be absent from the coronation ceremony, but this he begged to say, that her Royal Highness did state to the King the reasons which led her to ask his Majesty to excuse her and the Princess from attending, and that those reasons were perfectly satisfactory to his Majesty. Whatever may have been the

true cause of the absence of those whom the British people would have hailed with such affectionate enthusiasm, this statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer entirely, and in the most dignified manner, exonerates the Duchess of Kent from any disrespect towards the King, and proves that the general indignation was most justly aroused against the scandalous, unprovoked, and unmanly attacks vented on this occasion upon the character and conduct of this amiable, virtuous, and exemplary lady.

MOST PROBABLE CAUSE OF ABSENCE.

ONE morning during the week preceding the coronation, the Princess Victoria, whilst taking her airing, in company with her young friend, Miss Victoria Conroy, her governess and attendants, was, by an unfortunate accident, thrown from her poney. Providentially her Royal Highness was not injured, or even materially hurt at the moment, but her medical attendants recommended that for some time she should be kept quite quiet. This, it can scarcely be doubted, was the true cause of their Royal Highnesses' absence, particularly as it is an ascertained fact, that only four days before the appointed time, the Duchess and her daughter were expected at Claremont, for the purpose of attending the coronation, and that the Duchess had appointed Lord Morpeth to be the bearer of her coronet to the abbey. It is natural that the Duchess should be unwilling, considering the unfounded reports which were already

prevalent respecting the lameness of the young Princess, to allow any publicity to be given to this accident; and accordingly, we find no trace of it amongst the various causes assigned for her non-appearance, during the wordy controversy that circumstance elicited.

HORSEMANSHIP.

It was at the close of this year that the Princess took her first lessons in horsemanship. Her Royal Highness was especially recommended by Queen Adelaide to the care of Mr. Fozard, in whose riding school she practiced, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, and frequently by the Duchess of Northumberland, for some hours two or three times a week during the winter months; the Princess soon became an accomplished and almost daring equestrian, and it is needless to add has always taken great pleasure in riding, since that fact has of late become sufficiently known. Her Majesty's figure, though small, looks well on her horse, which she sits with ease and dignity, and it is exhilarating to witness the enjoyment her countenance portrays when partaking of this favourite exercise; especially as it is considered by her physicians to be highly beneficial both to her health and spirits.

AMUSEMENT BLENDED WITH STUDY.

As the mind of the young Princess became with her increasing years more intently occupied upon her various studies, her judicious and tender mother more anxiously sought for a variation of amusement, which might during the hours of recreation withdraw her attention from subjects calculated to over excite it. Accordingly her Royal Highness was now indulged with frequent visits to the theatres, particularly the Opera, in which she much delighted, and always appeared to take a real and quite *naïve* interest in the business of the scene ; but these visits were always made privately, and it was the habit of the royal party to leave the Opera House regularly at eleven o'clock, seldom remaining for the *ballet*. During the spring season she attended the most striking exhibitions, panoramas, bazaars, &c., with which art and ingenuity have so abundantly furnished the metropolis of this great empire. Little family meetings, which her Royal Highness always thoroughly enjoyed, were likewise frequent ; and the Princess was introduced not only to the chief nobility, but to all the striking literary and scientific characters of the age, at the table of her royal mother, whose select dinner parties, convened once or twice a-week, afforded the most agreeable diversity of scene and society to both their Royal Highnesses. The young Princess was thus accustomed to listen to, and gradually to join in, refined con

and she afterwards always resided with her Majesty, wherever she might chance to be. During the last illness of this affectionate servant, the Queen herself contributed by every kind attention to alleviate her sufferings, and render her death bed easy.

THE DRAWING-ROOM SCRAP-BOOK.

THE Princess, as has been before observed, was becoming daily an object of greater and deeper interest to the nation at large. Wherever she appeared, she was followed by the anxious eyes of thousands; and the affectionate acclamations with which her mother and herself were always welcomed, particularly on the occasions of the birthday drawing-rooms, were truly gratifying. Portraits still continued to be abundantly put forth, and scarcely a periodical appeared without some allusion, either in prose or verse, to the opening intelligence and dawning virtues of the youthful hope of England. Amongst these, Fisher's Drawing-room Scrap-book for 1832 was particularly distinguished for its very delicate engraving from Stewart's pretty miniature, and the following fanciful illustration from Miss Landon's ever graceful pen :—

TO THE PRINCESS VICTORIA.

And art thou a princess? In sooth we may well
Go back to the days of the sign and the spell,
When a young queen sat on an ivory throne
In a glittering hall, whose windows shone

With colours its crystals caught from the sky,
Or the roof, which a thousand rubies dye ;
Where the summer garden was spread around
With the date, and the palm, and the cedar crowned ;
Where fountains played with the rainbow showers,
Touched with the hues of their comrade flowers ;
Where the tulip and rose grew side by side,
One like a queen and one like a bride ;
One with its own imperial flush,
The other reddening with love's sweet blush ;
When silver stuffs for her step were unrolled,
And the citron was placed on a plate of gold ;
When perfumes arose from pearl caskets, filled
With odours from all sweet things distilled ;
When a fairy guarded her throne from ill,
And she knew no rule but her own glad will :
Those were the days for a youthful queen,
And such fair princess thou should'st have been.
But now thou wilt fill a weary throne,
What with rights of thy people and rights of thine own,
An ear trumpet now thy sceptre should be,
Eternal debate is the future for thee.
Lord Brougham will make a six hours' oration
On the progress of knowledge, the mind of the nation.
Lord Grey one yet longer, to state that his place
Is perhaps less dear to himself than his race ;
O'Connell will tell Ireland's griefs and her wrongs,
In speech the macadamized prose of Moore's songs :
Good patience ! how weary the young queen will be
Of " the flower of the earth and the gem of the sea !"
Mr. Hume with his watchwords, " retrenchment and waste,"
Will insist that your wardrobe in his care be placed ;
The silk he will save, the blond he will spare,
I wish he may leave your Grace any to wear.
That feminine fancy, a will of your own,
Is a luxury wholly denied to a throne ;

And this is your future, how soon will time trace,
A change and a sign on that fair and young face!
Methinks the best wish to be offered thee now,
Is—God keep the crown long from that innocent brow.

POLITICAL INSTRUCTION.

At about this time, some insinuations were pretty widely circulated, respecting the political bias which the education of the Princess Victoria was receiving from the well-known Tory principles of her noble governess. Such insinuations, however, were wholly groundless, as indeed the result has fully proved; the Duchess of Northumberland never attempted, either by her selection of books for her Royal Highness's use, or by any other means, to give the slightest party turn to the education of the Princess. Her Royal Highness was well versed in history, both in the English and French languages; and the authors from whom her information was drawn, were those whose works are in the hands of all who desire a competent and impartial knowledge of the British constitution, and of the superiority of its institutions over those of foreign countries. The system of education early laid down by the Duchess of Kent was never in any particular departed from, and the natural firmness and decision of the young Princess's character, was very unfavourable to any views of rendering her the instrument of a party. Politics, however, formed, at her present tender age, no part of her

Royal Highness's education, which was strictly limited to the instructions necessary to make her, under the divine blessing, a virtuous and amiable sovereign.

JOURNEY TO BEAUMARIS.

THE summer of 1832 proved, perhaps, one of the most striking eras in the short life of our youthful Queen; a lengthened residence in the Island of Anglesey, in North Wales, and a long detour afterwards, not only gave the young Princess an opportunity of seeing a vast extent of her native country, and of gaining much important information respecting it, but introduced her personally to large numbers of the nobility and gentry, living at their family seats in the true style of English hospitality; and also gave rise to a general burst of enthusiasm amongst the populace, throughout the whole of her route, such as has been seldom witnessed on any similar occasion. Their Royal Highnesses left Kensington palace on Wednesday the 1st of August, passed through Coventry, and slept that night at Meriden. The following day they proceeded to Powis castle, alighting by the way at Shrewsbury, where, after receiving an address of congratulation, they partook of refreshments, the Princess particularly of some Shrewsbury cakes, presented to her by the mayor in a superb box of carved oak, which she gracefully accepted, and invited her mother to partake with her of its contents.

It was observed here that the young Princess seemed greatly delighted with the homage and attention of her visitors and future subjects.

At Powis castle, where they were received with distinguished honours by Viscount Clive and his family, their Royal Highnesses remained during Friday, and on that day they visited the national school at Pool, expressed themselves highly pleased with the appearance of the children, and left for the establishment the munificent donation of £100.

On Saturday their Royal Highnesses proceeded through Oswestry to Wynnstay Park; at Chirk bridge, the boundary between England and Wales, they were met by Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, heading a body of Denbighshire cavalry, and were welcomed with the joyous shouts of an immense multitude of loyal Cambrians. Sir Watkin here took his illustrious guests in charge, and conducted them immediately to Wynnstay Park.

On Sunday their Royal Highnesses attended divine service at Ruabon church; and on

Monday proceeded on their route to Beaumaris. Whilst stopping to change horses at the Hand Inn, Llangollen, the youngest daughter of Mr. Philips, the landlord, presented the Princess with a Welsh doll, attired in full Cambrian costume, with which she expressed herself highly pleased. Their Royal Highnesses having passed through Bangor, the carriages were seen from the green at Beaumaris to cross the Menai bridge at about half past five o'clock, and immediately the whole town was in motion; an

immense crowd lined the streets leading to the Bulkeley Arms Hotel, and no sooner were the royal ladies recognised than the air was rent with loud and reiterated acclamations. The Princess showed herself at the carriage window, and seemed greatly delighted with the welcome she received. The Sons of Mona were in raptures with her blooming appearance and prepossessing manners, testifying their approbation in their own expressive language, "*Y mae hi yn beth bach amwyl.*" On reaching the Hotel her Royal Highness bounded from the carriage and up the steps of the portico with a light and graceful motion, which fully confirmed the appearance of health beaming upon her countenance; and shortly afterwards presented herself upon the portico, acknowledging the greetings of popular attachment with a frankness and unaffected simplicity, which found its way to the heart of every one present, and redoubled the loyal love already surrounding her. It was the general remark that, with the bloom of healthful loveliness, the young Princess displayed all the buoyancy of spirit so beautifully characteristic of her age.

RESIDENCE IN WALES.

THEIR Royal Highnesses continued their residence at the Bulkeley Arms, Beaumaris, for about three weeks, during which time they made various excursions both by land and water, the Emerald yacht being again in attendance upon their pleasure.

They very soon visited the town and castle of Carnarvon, and examined the extensive ruins of the latter with minute attention ; the Princess Victoria desired to be shown the apartment in which the unfortunate Edward the Second is said to have been born, the stone roof and walls of which are still perfect, expressing her surprise that a prince of her royal house should have drawn his first breath in a room of the confined dimensions of eight feet by fourteen, in a castle, the materials of which would have built St. James's Palace six times over. Her Royal Highness was much interested in the inspection of these ruins, but unfortunately the great crowd which her presence attracted so entirely beset her at every step, that she was unable to satisfy her curiosity to the extent which she desired, and was therefore under the necessity of repeating her visit in a more private manner at another opportunity.

On the 17th of August, the Duchess's birth-day, their Royal Highnesses, in compliance with an especial invitation from the inhabitants, made their public entry into Bangor, in an open carriage ; and on this occasion they appeared, in compliment to the fair maids of Cambria, in the head-dress of the country, the Welsh hat, which national costume the ingenuous countenance of the heiress presumptive well became.

On the following day it had been arranged that the royal party should view the romantic lake and pass of Llanberris, but the Princess Victoria, owing to the unusual fatigue and excitement of the birth-

day, was slightly indisposed, which induced her anxious mother to forego the pride and pleasure of seeing her receive the delighted homage which so many thousand hearts were bounding to offer her, and although with unfeigned regret to pay this visit alone.

Their Royal Highnesses afterwards removed to Plas-Newydd, the noble mansion of the Marquis of Anglesey, beautifully situated on a rising ground, on the margin of the Menai, about five or six miles from Beaumaris ; and here they remained for many weeks, enjoying daily, either in their yacht or carriage, some distant excursion, or riding on horseback for several hours, the young Princess, especially, deriving the greatest benefit from the exhilarating mountain breezes ; her health and spirits were indeed excellent, and her growth during this period remarkable.

BEAUMARIS EISTEDDFOD.

PERHAPS the greatest gala which occurred during this period was the national Eisteddfod, celebrated in Beaumaris castle, on the second day of which festival, their Royal Highnesses fully intended to have been present ; but great was the disappointment to the youthful enthusiast in music, when on the appointed morning the rain descended, and the wind blew so chilly and so damp, that the prudence of the royal mother prohibited the promised enjoyment. The meeting having adjourned from the

castle to the town-hall, Sir Richard Bulkeley there read to the assemblage a letter he had received from Sir John Conroy, expressive of the Duchess's regret that the state of the weather prevented her attendance at the music meeting; and announcing her intention of being at Baron Hill, the seat of Sir Richard Bulkeley, at four o'clock in the afternoon, when the Princess and herself would invest the successful candidates with their respective prizes. Sir Richard added, that he would be happy to see such of the company as wished to witness the investiture at Baron Hill in the afternoon.

This baronial residence is situated on an eminence about one mile from Beaumaris, with an extensive lawn sloping down to the town and castle, and finely screened and backed with umbrageous woods, which form great embellishments to this part of the island. On this lawn the company, who had attended the Eisteddfod, began to assemble long before the appointed hour; the spot chosen for the ceremony was the terrace in front of the mansion, a space being kept clear for the reception of the royal visitors. A scarlet cloth was spread upon the pavement, and seats were placed upon it for their Royal Highnesses. At four o'clock the band struck up "God save the King," and the Royal Duchess and her interesting child, followed by a train of about fifty of the nobility, came forth by the principal entrance from the house upon the terrace, amidst the greetings of heart and voice from the assembled throng below. As soon as the

royal ladies had taken their seats, the candidates to whom the prizes had been previously awarded, were successively introduced and invested with them by the Duchess and the Princess, the latter performing her part in the ceremony with mingled grace and sweetness, dignity and diffidence.

The Rev. John Blackwell was the first called, and was invested with the silver gilt medal by their Royal Highnesses jointly.

Miss Angharad Llwyd was next invested, and their Royal Highnesses most condescendingly complimented this young lady on the distinguished talents she had displayed.

The successful competitor for the silver harp, John Williams, of Oswestry, late of Carnarvon, was next brought forward, and invested by the Princess Victoria in person; he is a young man of highly promising talents.

The Rev. W. Williams, of Carnarvon, was the next to receive his honours; and the rest of the successful candidates, nine in number, were invested in the order in which they had gained their prizes.

At the conclusion of the investiture, their Royal Highnesses and their party returned to the house, amidst the congratulatory shouts of the spectators, and shortly afterwards sat down to dinner in a magnificent temporary banquetting-room erected for the occasion. At table the Princess Victoria sat, as was her constant habit, on the right of her mother; Lady Bulkeley on the right of the Princess,

and Sir Richard on the left of the Duchess. At seven o'clock the assembly broke up, to enable the young Princess to reach her temporary home, at the distance of six or seven miles, at an early hour.

WELSH ENTHUSIASM.

THE visit of the heiress presumptive and her illustrious mother, aroused to the highest pitch the enthusiasm of devoted loyalty in Cambria. Her beacons blazed ; her mountain fires were lighted ; her rocks and woods, her hills and valleys rung with the shouts of welcome ; never indeed was there witnessed such intensity of feeling, as that displayed on every occasion of their Royal Highnesses' public appearance amongst this warm-hearted people. The youthful Princess, was of course, the principal object of attraction, and the joyous greeting she always met with from the peasantry and the quarrymen, by whom she was styled, "*Y frenines fach*," or "*Reinas bache*," could scarcely be surpassed. Her auspicious presence seemed even to revive the long dormant spirit of the minstrels, and to inspire them for the moment with a portion, at least, of their ancient fire :—

“ Hush'd had been the voice of song,
Time had o'er its spirit flung
The stillness of a dream.

The mountain harp had silence kept,
 Its tones had on the willows slept,
 As sleeps a polar stream.

See, the beacon blazing lamp,
 Hark, the horses' martial tramp,
 The plaudit and the shout :
 The arching wreaths rise green as May,
 The banners stream upon Wynnstay,
 And mountain tops about.

The harp, the harp, is heard again,
 Loudly peals the loyal strain,
 From Cambria's music band ;
 Its tones the sleeping hamlets shake,
 Its spirit-stirring notes awake
 The minstrels of the land.

Bright-eyed maid of royalty !
 Harp they ?—yea they harp for thee,
 As with seraphic lyre,
 They view their babes as though thine own,
 And shed around thy hovering crown
 A bright and holy fire.”*

The Duchess and her daughter were on their part delighted, not only with their reception in the island, but with the variety of interesting objects and lovely scenery with which it presented them, and seemed most anxious to reciprocate in every possible way those sentiments of attachment which

* Stanzas on the arrival of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria in the principality of Wales, by Samuel Salkeld, author of the “ Pleasures of Home.”

they rejoiced to inspire. During their residence of more than two months between Beaumaris and Plas-Newydd, they may literally be said to have gone about continually doing good ; and it is difficult to decide whether their munificent acts of charity, or their kind, condescending, and at the same time, dignified demeanour towards all classes, made the most lasting impression on the minds of the Welsh.

The last public act of their Royal Highnesses in the principality, was laying, jointly, the foundation-stone of a school for boys, in the united parishes of Llanedwen and Llanfairpwllgwyngyll, to which they had munificently contributed. A grateful and affectionate address from the inhabitants of these two parishes was presented on the occasion, to which the Duchess returned the following answer :—

“ Our agreeable visit at Plas-Newydd, and knowledge of the inhabitants in its neighbourhood, leads the Princess and myself to receive these expressions of their good feeling with very great pleasure.

“ This visit allowed us to know that a school was requisite for these two parishes ; it is a source of great satisfaction to us, to be the means of affording one.

“ We lay the first stone of the building with a sincere wish, that the instruction it will be the means of imparting may make the children educated there, religious, good, and useful members of the community.”

TOUR IN THE MIDLAND COUNTIES.

ON Monday, the 15th of October, their Royal Highnesses took their departure from this fascinating residence, made a most gratifying journey through Denbighshire and Flintshire, resting for a short time at Kinnel Park, the seat of Lord Dinorben, to meet their affectionate relative, the Duke of Sussex, in whose company they partook of a cold collation ; and afterwards pursuing their route by St. Asaph, Northop and Hawarden, alighted at six o'clock in the evening, at

EATON HALL,

near Chester, the magnificent mansion of the Marquis of Westminster. Here every arrangement had been made to receive the royal guests with princely hospitality and splendour. A superb dinner was served soon after the arrival of the Duchess of Kent, to her Royal Highness and a select party of eighteen, which the Princess Victoria was too much fatigued to join ; she therefore, before retiring to rest, partook of a slight refreshment in a separate apartment, with the Baroness Lehzen, but was on the subsequent days able to dine with the noble Marquis's numerous family and guests.

On Tuesday their Royal Highnesses received an address from the corporation, and another from the inhabitants of Chester, the deputations arriving at

Eaton hall in fifteen carriages ; they were conducted by the Marquis of Westminster and Earl Grosvenor into the presence of their Royal Highnesses. The interesting little Princess stood beside her mother, simply clad in white, her hair combed back, and plainly adjusted behind her ears ; her bright blue eyes and pleasing countenance beaming with intelligence. The Duchess returned most gracious and appropriate answers to both addresses, and the corporation, after partaking of refreshment, returned to Chester. The royal visitors took a drive through the beautiful grounds and plantations at Eaton, and in the evening the young Princess joined the dinner party, which was upon the same scale as that of the preceding day.

On Wednesday, the royal ladies, accompanied by the Marquis of Westminster's family and guests, visited Chester for the purpose of opening the new bridge over the Dee ; and nothing could exceed the ardour with which the inhabitants welcomed the event. The *cortège* left Eaton in four carriages and four, and the illustrious visitors, accompanied by the Marquis and Marchioness of Westminster, occupied a fifth, drawn by six beautiful horses belonging to the noble Marquis : on approaching the bridge, the Mayor presented himself at the carriage to ask the pleasure of their Royal Highnesses respecting the name it should henceforth bear. The young Princess promptly replied,—“ I seize the occasion of our being the first persons to pass over this magnificent bridge, to lend myself to the feeling

that prevails, and to name it "GROSVENOR BRIDGE."

The calvacade then proceeded, and the Royal Strangers viewed every thing worthy of notice in the City, including the venerable Cathedral; received in the Chapter House an address from the Bishop and Clergy of the Diocese, and partook of a collation at the Bishop's Palace, after which they returned to Eaton Hall to prepare for another and still more interesting ceremony—the christening of the new-born daughter of Lord and Lady Robert Grosvenor, and grandchild of the Noble Host. Their Royal Highnesses both stood Sponsors; the Princess was much affected on entering upon this solemn responsibility for the first time, making her answers with devotion and fervour. The infant was named Victoria Charlotte, and was presented by her godmothers with costly mementoes of the joyful event.

On Thursday the Princess particularly enjoyed an archery fête given in the Marquis's grounds in honour of the Royal visit. At one o'clock the Members of the Society of "Royal British Bowmen" had assembled on the lawn to the number of one hundred and thirty, the Gentlemen appropriately equipped in caps and suits of forest green, the Ladies in fawn-coloured dresses, turned up and trimmed with light green. Some hundreds of the friends of the Members, and others specially invited to witness the sport, promenaded the lawn

inside the fence, while several thousands of pedestrians and equestrians, the outpouring of Chester and its neighbourhood, were assembled outside, but near enough to have a perfect view of the company, and the progress of the sport. The whole had a very pleasing and highly picturesque effect. At half-past six o'clock a sumptuous dinner was served to a company of 249 persons, a table being raised on a slight elevation at the South end of the banquetting-room for the Royal visitors and the Members of the family, while twelve others ran the entire length of the room for the accommodation of the rest of the guests. It was the first time the Princess Victoria had dined as it were in public, and she appeared highly delighted with the novelty and splendour of the scene. At nine o'clock their Royal Highnesses left the room, and shortly afterwards retired for the night.

At eight o'clock on Friday morning the Duchess and her daughter took leave of the Marquis of Westminster and his family with many expressions of gratification at the enthusiasm of their reception by the people, and the splendour of their entertainment. At half-past eight they drove up to the Royal Hotel at Chester, where crowds had already assembled to take leave of them. The Princess smiled sweetly upon all in recognition of the kindness they had evinced towards her, and at parting condescended to shake hands heartily with Mrs. Tomlinson, the landlady of the Hotel. They then proceeded on their route to

CHATSWORTH,

where they arrived in time for dinner, but the young Princess again declined attending it, owing to the fatigues of a long and exciting journey. She had need too of a little rest, for Saturday was to be filled with exercise and enjoyment. She was among the spectators of a cricket match which was played in the grounds in the morning, and in the afternoon the Duke of Devonshire took his Royal and other numerous visitors to view the romantic scenery of Haddon Hall ; they walked a long time in the gardens, and the Princess Victoria with her own hand planted a young Oak as a memorial of her visit. A large party assembled at Chatsworth in the evening, when various devices were resorted to for the amusement of the Princess within doors, whilst without, the waterworks, cascades, fountains, &c., which embellish the grounds, were brilliantly illuminated with about 2000 Russian lights, so disposed as to throw their whole sheen upon the water, and give it at a distance the appearance of a stream of liquid fire ascending in the air. The trees were also illuminated at intervals with blue, red, and various coloured flames, which had a singularly beautiful effect, and the whole scene, as viewed from the windows of this " Palace of the Peak," bore a greater resemblance to fairy land than to reality.

Sunday formed a comparative respite from these continued gaieties ; their Royal Highnesses attended the performance of Divine Service, by His Grace's Chaplain, in the chapel at Chatsworth.

On Monday the Royal party made an excursion in open carriages to view Hardwicke Hall, and, passing through Chesterfield by the way, were received there with one of the heartiest welcomes they had hitherto experienced. The Royal *cortège* drove slowly through the Town, their progress being impeded by the thousands who lined the streets, the Princess ever and anon gracefully and cheerfully acknowledging the enthusiastic cheers of the people. In the evening the grounds at Chatsworth were thrown open to the public, and in addition to the illuminated water-works, a most brilliant display of fireworks was exhibited.

The Duchess of Kent was desirous of availing herself of the opportunity afforded by this visit to show the Princess Victoria the extensive cotton manufactories of Messrs. Strutt at Belper ; accordingly, on Tuesday, their Royal Highnesses set out, accompanied by the Duke of Devonshire and twenty-six of his guests, in open carriages for the purpose. The Duchess and the Princess, together with the Duke of Devonshire and Lady Blanche Cavendish, occupied his Grace's state carriage, which was drawn by six horses, and preceded by eight outriders in full state liveries. The beautifully romantic valley of Matlock lay on this day upon

their road, and here the inhabitants were not backward in giving the illustrious visitors a reception worthy of their rank and virtues. The town displayed one continued series of arches, banners, festoons, mottoes, and other trophies of rejoicing; the Duke of Devonshire kindly desired the driver to pass slowly through, and he appeared to enter fully into the spirit manifested by the spectators, standing up in the carriage uncovered, and continually pointing out the various devices to the notice of the Princess. When their Royal Highnesses and suite alighted at the manufactory at Belper, a band of musicians, stationed on a temporary gallery in the mill-yard, struck up "God save the King," amidst reiterated cheering and the waving of hats and handkerchiefs, whilst a large number of the manufactory children, having been permitted to occupy the space underneath the gallery, joined their voices in this heartfelt welcome, at the same time clapping their little hands with delight. The gladsome countenances and neat appearance of these infant artizans excited a very pleasurable emotion in the bosom of the young Princess, who noticed them with expressions of the most cordial kindness. The illustrious party spent upwards of two hours in inspecting the process of manufacture in its varied progress, from room to room, through the whole of one of the spacious mills; they also went through some of the mechanics' shops, and expressed themselves both gra-

tified and interested with the machinery, as well as with the explanations given them on one of the most important manufactures of the country, and also pleased with the clean and healthy look of the persons employed in the works. The following description of the Princess Victoria is given by one who was present on this occasion :—" Her Royal Highness, although in her fourteenth year, does not look more than twelve, for she is short for her age, and of a slight figure ; her countenance is remarkably intelligent, her features, especially her forehead, nose, and eyes, bearing a strong resemblance to those of the Royal Family generally ; her manners are modest and exceedingly interesting. The high station she is destined to fill, should Providence spare her life, throws an irresistible fascination around her, which was powerfully manifested by the thousands assembled on this memorable day."

On returning through Matlock the Royal party halted and purchased at several spar shops, and alighted first at Mr. Vallance's and then Mr. Mawe's museum. At the entrance to the large room of the latter stood the two interesting children of Mr. Adams, the conductor, supporting a crown ingeniously composed of ribbons, laurels, and flowers. The Princess was highly delighted with the children, and, after talking to them for some little time, shook them kindly and frankly by the hand. Their Royal Highnesses afterwards, notwithstanding the press of people, walked up through the town to

inspect the petrifying well ; and then, re-entering their carriage, returned to Chatsworth.

On Thursday morning they departed from this princely mansion, the gates of which had been thrown open during their stay with unbounded hospitality, causing the daily consumption of this memorable week to amount to more than two oxen, forty sheep, from ten to twenty calves, besides deer and other game and poultry. Every arrangement for the accommodation and entertainment of the Royal guests was made on the same scale of splendid liberality. The plate in constant use was valued at seventy thousand pounds : the gardens were ordered with so much care that upwards of a hundred workmen were employed each night in removing the leaves which had fallen during the day, in rolling the walks, and otherwise embellishing them. The result of this extreme attention was that the Princess expressed herself puzzled to understand how it happened that the grounds looked so beautifully neat in the morning. The water-works, the finest in England, played constantly, day and night, the whole of the Royal visit. The Princess, during her stay at Chatsworth, spent much time in perambulating the gardens, proving herself an excellent pedestrian, and indeed outwalking many of more mature years. She dined with the company at the Duke's table every day after the first of her arrival.

ALTON TOWERS.

IN the course of this day's picturesque journey through those romantic portions of the counties of Derby and Stafford, which lie between Chatsworth and Shugborough Park, near Lichfield, their Royal Highnesses alighted at Alton Towers, the seat of the Earl of Shrewsbury, for about two hours, during which time they viewed the armoury, picture-gallery, museum of marbles, and other curiosities of this baronial residence ; partook of a cold collation with a numerous company of the neighbouring nobility and gentry, and afterwards accompanied the Earl and Countess over the celebrated and unrivalled Hanging Gardens. Their Royal Highnesses drove off again at half-past three o'clock, amidst the salutations of a vast multitude from the surrounding neighbourhood, who were kindly allowed an entrance into the grounds on this interesting occasion.

SHUGBOROUGH.

ON the arrival of their Royal Highnesses at Shugborough, the seat of the Earl of Lichfield, the band stationed in the Park struck up " God save the King ;" a salute was fired, and the royal standard hoisted over the centre of the mansion. The Noble Earl handed the Duchess from her carriage, and was followed by the Countess, leading the

Princess Victoria, all the distinguished guests invited to meet their Royal Highnesses having assembled on the fine flight of steps leading to the entrance hall, to receive and welcome them. A large accession of company arrived to dinner, at which the young Princess, however, did not appear.

On the following day the Staffordshire yeomanry were reviewed by their Lieutenant-colonel, the Earl of Lichfield, in the Park, and from an early hour in the morning trains of carriages filled with the gentry of the county, and vehicles of every description conveying the humbler classes, together with immense numbers of horsemen and crowds of pedestrians, were seen advancing towards the Park, in which, by one o'clock, not less than ten thousand persons had assembled.

Meanwhile, arrangements having been made for the presentation of an Address from the Corporation and Clergy of Stafford previously to the review, and the hour of twelve having been fixed upon for that purpose, the Deputation attending were ushered into the drawing-room, where the Royal Duchess and her august Daughter were prepared to receive them. Their Royal Highnesses were standing—the Princess on the left of her Mother ; and on the approach of the gentlemen, they both noticed their obeisances with affable smiles and graceful motion : the Countess of Lichfield and her numerous guests formed a semicircle round the Royal Ladies, who stood a few paces in advance of them. The Corporation

and Clergy having taken their station, the Rev. W. E. Coldwell, the Rector, read the following interesting Address :—

To her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.

" May it please your Royal Highness,

" We, the Mayor and Corporation, the Rector and Clergy, of the ancient and loyal borough of Stafford, beg to approach your Royal Highness with the expression of our unfeigned respect, and of the high sense we entertain of the honour conferred upon our County by the visit of your Royal Highness and your illustrious daughter to the mansion of our Noble Neighbour.

" We beg permission to assure your Royal Highness that we feel, in common with the nation at large, deeply sensible of the advantages bestowed upon these realms by the unsullied example you exhibit to your Royal Daughter, the presumptive Heiress to the British Throne. We hail, with the liveliest gratitude, as omens of incalculable good to our country, the high tone of moral virtue and the sound Protestant religious principle with which it is your Royal Highness's chief care to imbue the mind of a Princess, on whom, under God, the national piety and happiness may in future greatly depend. And we offer our earnest prayers, that whenever it shall please the Sovereign Ruler of the Universe to call the illustrious object of your cares to the Throne of her Ancestors, she may be the honoured instrument, in his hands, of again attaching an epoch of British glory to the annals of a female reign.

" In conclusion, we beg to present to your Royal Highness the assurance of our cordial attachment to the House of Brunswick, and our devoted loyalty to our most gracious King and his Royal Consort; and will only add our fervent prayer that it may please God long to preserve your valuable life, and to bestow upon your Royal Highness and your illustrious Daughter the richest blessings of his providence and of his grace."

The countenance of the Duchess bespoke her gratification during the reading of the Address, and at its conclusion she delivered the following reply:—

“GENTLEMEN,

“I assure you the Princess and myself feel deeply the attention that leads you here to convey to us such gratifying sentiments from the ancient Borough of Stafford. Our entry into, and journey yesterday through part of your county, was marked by such cordial feeling, as to make us anxious to advert to it, and to warmly acknowledge it.

“We see in this general expression of kind regard a loyal people seizing the occasion to mark their devotion to their King by showing attention to us, as members of his family.

“The Princess will derive the greatest benefit from these journeys; they bring her in contact with all classes; they are the means of allowing her to know all the varied interests of this great and free country.

“It is, therefore, my ardent wish that the Princess may, by such intercourse, be attached to and identified with the feelings of all ranks, so as to be capable of discharging, with honour to herself and advantage to the community at large, the duties of a station she may be called on to fill—I trust most fervently at a very distant day!”

The Clergy and Members of the Corporation present were then severally introduced, after which the Mayor and Rector of Stafford were especially invited to partake of luncheon with their Royal Highnesses and their party.

At two o'clock the regiment to be reviewed mustered about four hundred and fifty strong, and shortly afterwards the Duchess and the Princess, accompanied by the Marchioness of Tavistock and the Countess of Lichfield, appeared upon the

ground in a carriage-and-four ; they remained during the whole of the review, apparently much pleased with the manœuvres of the troops, and, at its conclusion, the Duchess expressed to Lieutenant-Colonel Littleton her high gratification at the efficient state of the regiment, which being publicly announced by the Colonel, one spontaneous and lengthened cheer burst from the soldiery, and was heartily joined in by the spectators. The Royal party returned the salutations of the company in the most courteous manner, and drove slowly off the ground, affording to all present ample opportunity of becoming acquainted with their persons. Of the youthful Princess, it was here remarked, that though neither handsome nor extremely pretty, her countenance was particularly engaging. When she rose to acknowledge the notice of the crowd, she evidently made an effort to assume an air of becoming dignity, but could not altogether chase from her features an expression of childish satisfaction at the attention she excited, and the homage she received. She was extremely affable to all around her, entering into conversation with those who were fortunate enough to approach her carriage closely. Her Royal Highness wore a pink silk dress, black silk cloak, and white open bonnet trimmed with blonde and artificial roses. The Duchess appeared to take the greatest pains to show off her little daughter to the best advantage. After the review

the officers of the yeomanry, the corporation and clergy of Stafford, and all the principal families of the neighbourhood, partook of a *déjeûné* in a temporary room adjoining the Mansion-house, and the company were beyond measure delighted by the condescension of their Royal Highnesses, who entered the room, conducted by their noble host, and, passing up the centre, returned the enthusiastic clapping of hands which greeted their appearance by the most courteous and graceful obeisances.

On Friday their Royal Highnesses paid a visit to Lichfield, alighted at the Guildhall, and received there an address from the corporation and inhabitants; from the Guildhall they proceeded to the Cathedral, and being met at the Lich gates by the dean and chapter, they were conducted to the Chapter-house, where the dean presented an address from the clergy of the diocese; the latter part of the Duchess's answer to this address is couched in language so simple and affecting, that it cannot fail to be read with feelings of grateful pleasure as a transcript of the mother's heart. In allusion to a paragraph in the address respecting the education of the Princess Victoria, her Royal Highness says:—"The deep interest you express in the education and religious instruction of the Princess is most agreeable to my maternal feelings, coming as it does from you: may all our hopes be realized in *her*—that she

may meet the expectations of the country is my most ardent wish." Their Royal Highnesses afterwards viewed the Cathedral; and the young Princess, whose taste was already forming on the best models, expressed the great delight with which she contemplated, for the first time, that exquisite production of Chantry's accomplished chisel, the Sleeping Children.

In the evening the Princess thoroughly enjoyed a dance with the juvenile members of the company assembled at Shugborough. She danced the first quadrille with the young Viscount Anson, and was joined by the children of the Earls of Lichfield and Uxbridge, mostly younger than herself; her dress on this occasion was of Brussels lace over pink satin.

On Saturday morning, her Royal Highness presented the Ladies Anne and Harriet Anson, and also the Ladies Eleanor and Constance Paget, with beautiful little ornaments set in diamonds, as *souvenirs* of affection, and at eleven o'clock the Royal Guests finally quitted Shugborough for Pitchford, the residence of the Earl of Liverpool, near Shrewsbury.

On their route thither they passed through STAFFORD, amidst enthusiastic testimonies of rejoicing, and indeed their whole path proved, as usual, but a continuance of that holiday-festival which had accompanied them throughout their progress.

PITCHFORD HALL.

Their Royal Highnesses passed a week at this hospitable mansion, agreeably domesticated with the Earl of Liverpool and his amiable daughters. A select but not a numerous circle of Nobility joined their dinner-table every day, and the mornings were generally spent by the young Princess in rambling with the Ladies Jenkinson through the extensive grounds, and amongst the adjacent scenery. Two days only were devoted to the more public appearance of the Heiress Presumptive and her mother; on one of these they witnessed a fox-hunt, by the Shropshire hounds, in the domain of the noble host,—the first the Princess had ever seen. His lordship threw open every part of his house, gardens, and pleasure-grounds to the public, and every person who chose to partake of his hospitality was invited to a splendid banquet, several of which were provided in various parts of the grounds. The Royal Ladies mixed amongst the crowd from an early hour, with their characteristic affability, and the delight which they evidently experienced in the animated scene around them excited the warm attachment of the spectators :

“ See the youthful Princess stand
Amidst the nobles of the land ;

Yet not to them alone she bends,
The very humblest seem her friends !
Whilst she who gave her birth is seen,
Meet Parent for a future Queen."

At about twelve o'clock, the business of the day commenced ; their Royal Highnesses accompanying the sportsmen in a carriage. After affording much excellent sport, the fox was killed within sight of the Princess, to whom Sir Edward Smythe, the director of the hunt, presented the brush. Her Royal Highness thanked the gallant baronet ; desired to see the huntsman, and when he was introduced to her, praised his dexterity, assured him he had afforded her great amusement, and finally requested, through Sir John Conroy, his acceptance of a £10. note.

On the following day, their Royal Highnesses paid an interesting visit to Shrewsbury and its celebrated free-school ; the young gentlemen, drawn up in triple lines, received them in their spacious school-room with three distinct rounds of cheers, and when silence was at length obtained, the senior-scholar made an appropriate address to the Royal Visitors, which the Duchess answered in a judicious and gracious speech, alluding to the deep interest she had taught the Princess to take in the good and religious education of all classes of her future subjects. Their Royal Highnesses walked from the school to Archdeacon Butler's

house, where they partook of a *dejeuné*, and the Princess Victoria was presented by the Arch-deacon's grand-daughter with a very elegant bouquet of artificial flowers, so skilfully manufactured in wax that she actually smelt to them before she discovered that they were not natural.

On Saturday the 3rd of November, their Royal Highnesses left Pitchford Hall with many expressions of the enjoyment they had experienced in this delightful visit, perhaps the most pleasurable of any they paid during their tour, owing to the attachment which has always subsisted between the young Princess and the Ladies Jenkinson—an attachment which has met no diminution since Her Majesty's accession to the throne. The Royal Travellers rested for some time on the road at

WALCOT,

the seat of Earl Powis, where they were shown the celebrated Tippoo Saib's tent; were saluted by the brass cannon taken at Seringapatam, and walked through the splendid conservatory, where they saw mangoes and various other fruits of the torrid zone growing in full luxuriance. After partaking of a *dejeuné* with the venerable Earl, Viscount and Lady Lucy Clive and family, they reached

OAKLEY PARK,

the residence of the Honourable Robert and Lady Harriet Clive, at four o'clock in the afternoon. Here the Princess was much pleased with her introduction to Lady Harriet's young family; the eldest of whom, a little girl of about her own age, was her chief companion during this short visit.

On Sunday their Royal Highnesses attended divine service at the beautiful parish church of St. Lawrence, Ludlow; and afterwards viewed the ruins of Ludlow Castle.

At half-past nine o'clock on Monday morning, the Royal party left Oakley Park, and proceeded on their route to Hewell Grange. Their most distinguished reception on this day was in the City of WORCESTER, where they were hailed, not only as cherished members of the Royal Family, but as dear friends and benefactresses, the recollection of whose affability and benevolence was deeply engraven on the hearts of all.

HEWELL GRANGE.

Their Royal Highnesses arrived early in the afternoon at the mansion of the Earl of Plymouth, where they were received with marks of the most respectful attachment by the noble host, and those classes who were privileged to approach them

personally, and with delight by the populace. The public were allowed free admission into the park during the whole day, and many a gallon of ale was drunk within it to the health of England's hope.

On Tuesday the Princess and her mother received several addresses from various towns in the vicinity, especially one from the nailors of Bromsgrove, requesting the Princess Victoria's acceptance of one thousand curiously minute nails, inclosed in a very small quill, and the whole presented in a gold box ; with which Her Royal Highness was much pleased, and greatly admired the ingenuity of the offering. A large portion of the morning was passed as usual in walking through the gardens of their host ; and in the evening, an assemblage of above one hundred of the neighbouring nobility and gentry attended to pay their respects to the Royal Guests, who received them with the utmost affability. The young Princess was naturally an object of peculiar interest, and her apparently affectionate disposition, united to the artless simplicity of her manners, made a universally pleasing impression. She retired soon after ten o'clock, without partaking of the sumptuous supper which was served at twelve.

On Wednesday the Royal progress was continued to Wytham Park, where the travellers sojourned till over Thursday, in order to give the

Princess an opportunity of visiting the University of Oxford.

WYTHAM AND, OXFORD.

At Wytham, the seat of the Earl of Abingdon, whither their Royal Highnesses arrived in the midst of the pitiless storm, which, however, did not prevent the road from being thronged with anxious gazers, they met the same warmth of welcome which had every where awaited them. A select party joined them at dinner on that day; and on

Thursday morning, after sociably enjoying the society of the Earl and Countess of Abingdon, and their family, at breakfast, the Royal party set out at half-past ten o'clock for Oxford. They drove first to the Divinity School, where they were received by the Vice-Chancellor, who conducted them to the Theatre; this magnificent room was filled in every part, and presented on the entrance of their Royal Highnesses a most imposing scene; the shouts of the immense company continued so long, and the "one cheer more" was so often repeated, that a considerable time elapsed before they could take their seats in the splendid chairs which were placed for them on the right of the Chancellor, and which were the same that had been made for the Emperor of Russia, and the King of Prussia, when they visited this far-

famed seat of learning in 1814. Silence having been at length obtained, the Vice-Chancellor read, in an animated tone and manner, a congratulatory address

“ To her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.

“ WE, the Chancellor, Masters, and Scholars of the University of Oxford, humbly request permission to express our sense of the honour conferred upon us by this visit of your Royal Highness and your illustrious daughter.

“ The demonstration of loyalty which has uniformly attended the recent progress of your Royal Highness through a considerable portion of the kingdom, has been a source of high gratification to us, who have long enjoyed favour and protection under the government of the House of Brunswick. And it is with peculiar satisfaction that we embrace the present opportunity of tendering our own tribute of dutiful respect.

“ In common with the whole nation, we gratefully acknowledge the sound discretion and watchful solicitude manifested in the education of the Princess; and we earnestly pray, that, by the blessing of Divine Providence, your Royal Highness may continue to derive from her talents and virtues the best earthly reward of your maternal affection and judicious care.

“ Given at our House of Convocation, &c. &c.”

To this address the Duchess of Kent returned the following impressive and affecting answer :

Mr. Vice-Chancellor and Gentlemen.

“ WE have great reason to value very highly the manner in which you receive us. We close a most interesting journey by a visit to this University, that the Princess may see, as far as her years will allow, all that is interesting in it. The history of our country has taught her to know its importance, by the many distinguished persons who, by their character

and talents, have been raised to eminence from the education they have received in it.

“ Your loyalty to the King, and recollection of the favour you have enjoyed under the paternal sway of his House, could not fail, I was sure, to lead you to receive his Niece with all the disposition you evince, to make this visit agreeable and instructive to her.

“ It is my object to ensure by all the means in my power her being so educated, as to meet the just expectation of all classes in this great and free country.”

A convocation was then held, at which the honorary degree of doctor of civil law was conferred upon Sir John Conroy, who was presented by the regius professor of civil law, Dr. Phillimore, in a Latin speech of great eloquence. The Vice-Chancellor then dissolved the convocation, and the Duchess and Princess immediately left the Theatre. Their Royal Highnesses next visited the Town Hall and Council Chamber, both of which were handsomely fitted up for the occasion, and filled with ladies ; in the Council Chamber they received an address from the Mayor and Corporation ; after which they drove with their suite to the cathedral of Christchurch, which they viewed, with its adjacent Hall and Library, attended by the dean, canons, censors, &c. ; thence they proceeded to the Bodleian and Radcliffe Libraries, and to All-Souls College ; from the latter, the Royal party passed on to University College, and were met at the gate of the smaller quadrangle by the master (the Vice-Chancellor), who conducted

them to his house. On arriving at the larger quadrangle, they were received by the fellows of the society ; and, after visiting the Chapel, they entered the Hall, where they partook of refreshment, in company with many of the dignitaries and professors of the University. The Royal party then returned to their carriages, and, on passing down the quadrangle, were greeted with the hearty cheers of the junior members of the College. They next viewed the fine Chapel and Hall of New College, and concluded their academical progress by visiting the University Printing-office. Here they were conducted by the delegates of the press through the rooms, and shown the whole process of the art of printing. The young Princess warmly expressed the pleasure she felt in this interesting exhibition ; her Royal Highness was presented with a copy of the royal quarto bible, in two volumes, splendidly bound in Turkey, and also with a memorial of her present visit, printed on white satin.

On their return to Wytham, their Royal Highnesses were again magnificently entertained at dinner, a large party of the nobility and members of the University being invited to meet them.

On Friday morning early, the Princess enjoyed a long walk in the gardens at Wytham, and at eleven o'clock took leave, together with her mother, of the Earl and Countess of Abingdon, and departed for Kensington Palace.

THE ROYAL PROGRESS.

The Duchess and her lovely daughter alighted at length at Kensington, on the afternoon of Friday the 9th of November, the young Princess in the highest spirits after her charming tour through a large portion of her future dominions. Their Royal Highnesses were absent more than three months, and during that lengthened period were greatly delighted by the warm, respectful, and affectionate reception they universally experienced. The heiress presumptive was indeed, as has been feelingly observed of another beloved Princess, "the youthful Idol of the gazing crowd;"—the affections of all classes were fixed upon her with an enthusiasm which seemed to gather strength, as she proceeded from Town to Town and from County to County, until she found herself once more domesticated in the Palace of her fathers. Since the days of our first Virgin Queen, so splendid a Royal progress has been scarcely witnessed in England; and the reciprocal impression it produced was alike favourable to the people and to the objects of their loyal homage. Englishmen rejoice to see the Royal Family mixing frankly amongst them, and receiving with kindness those marks of attention which they love to pay; and our destined Queen on her part became by such means more intimately acquainted both with her future subjects, and those

various scenes of commercial and manufacturing industry with which the Kingdom abounds. Their Royal Highnesses expressed themselves particularly gratified with the alacrity which the local Yeomanry invariably displayed in escorting them from place to place, and in mounting guard during their sojourn at the several residences of the Nobility; whilst the answers returned by the Duchess to the innumerable addresses presented to her, gave infinite satisfaction to the country: they were all expressive of the most interesting maternal solicitude, for "The Rose and Expectancy of the fair State;" and with a good taste, that was especially admired, she attributed the compliments paid to herself and the Princess to loyalty to the King and attachment to his person. It is to be regretted that the compass of this volume will not permit a more detailed report of these addresses which poured in upon Mother and Daughter, in rapid succession, throughout their route; but some judgment of their general tenor may be formed, from the few specimens which have been from time to time inserted. An enumeration of the variety of presents offered to the sweet little Princess, and their graceful acceptance, is also necessarily omitted; as is all mention of the munificent sums distributed in charity by the Duchess during her progress, and which it is computed amounted on the whole to about £2,000.

The young Princess enjoyed excellent health

throughout her long journey, and seldom complained of fatigue. Her Royal Highness kept up, during the whole period, an animated and most interesting correspondence with her Governess, the Duchess of Northumberland; and in which the habits, customs, and peculiarities of the people in the various Towns she visited were described with extraordinary accuracy, minuteness, and spirit. Nor were other Members of the Establishment, who did not accompany her on this interesting occasion, overlooked; she presented each of them with a memento of her journey, more or less costly, according to their age and office; and even the infant families of the Ladies in waiting were individually favoured with some trifling token of remembrance. The Dean of Chester and the other Instructors of the Princess were in waiting to receive her; and her Royal Highness was solicited, after so long a holiday, to apply herself closely to her studies, which she did, indeed, as much for her own satisfaction as for that of her ever-anxious Parent.

CAPTAIN BACK'S INTERVIEW.

It was shortly after the return of their Royal Highnesses to Kensington Palace, that they gave a new proof of their active interest in all matters connected with the welfare of the Country, whether for the promotion of science or the furtherance of any other national object. Captain Back, who was

on the point of setting out on his chivalrous expedition, in search of Captain Ross and his crew, having been requested to wait upon the Duchess and her Daughter, had the gratification of explaining to them, by the aid of maps, the whole object of his enterprise, the route he proposed to pursue, and the part of the coast on which he entertained the best hopes of meeting with tidings of the Captain. The Princess was greatly interested in this communication ; and, by the intelligence of her inquiries, and the anxiety she expressed for the success of the expedition, completely gained the heart of her enthusiastic Informant. On parting, her Royal Highness thanked Captain Back with the utmost sweetness, for the trouble he had taken in laying his plans so fully before her, and each of their Royal Highnesses presented him with a valuable and highly-finished Nautical Instrument, accompanying it with an urgent request that he would convey to them from time to time, by letter, an account of every thing of interest that occurred to him in the prosecution of his enterprise. This request was most willingly complied with, and Captain Back was honoured with a second interview immediately upon his return : but the Princess had the pleasure of receiving from Captain Ross himself a full account of the causes of his detention, and every particular worthy of note which his memorable voyage afforded.

Mr. Montgomery Martin was also permitted an

introduction to the Princess, at about this period, to present her with a copy of his "History of the British Colonies," which her Royal Highness received most kindly, expressing her great desire for the welfare of our Colonial possessions, and her hope that the people of England would always duly appreciate the value of Dominions, which, rising with England's glory, had spread into every part of the Globe, and mainly contributed to her honour and prosperity; her Royal Highness also observed that Mr. Martin's work would in future be her text book of reference, on all subjects connected with the Colonies.

MORE'S HINTS FOR A YOUNG PRINCESS.

THE attention of the public was again drawn to the education of the Heiress Presumptive, by the Duchess of Kent's munificent subscription to the erection of a monument to the memory of Mrs. Hannah More, and which was avowedly given in acknowledgement of the especial service rendered to the cause of our holy religion by the publication of her "Hints towards forming the character of a young Princess," in which she has so faithfully pointed out the importance of the example set by crowned heads, through its influence on the religious character of a people. The Duchess had carefully studied this valuable work, and had drawn from it much useful information, and many practical "hints towards forming the character" of her precious

charge, who was now advancing towards maturity, and rising day by day in the hopeful affections of the country. The lamented Duke of Gordon almost with his last breath declared, "that, led by his deep affection for her father, which naturally reflected upon herself, he had watched over the opening intellect of the youthful Princess from her tenderest infancy;" and joyfully he added, "that each succeeding year he had derived more and more gratification from its improved developement, and from her gradual advance in all those virtues and qualifications which he felt assured would ultimately render her the pride and ornament of the throne she seemed destined, in God's good time, to fill." Again, Sir Edward Codrington observes, "that being honoured with the friendly association of the Duchess and the Princess, he could, from his own knowledge, assert, that it was impossible for any young lady to be advancing more satisfactorily than was the Princess Victoria, in that refined education appropriate to the exalted station she seemed born to occupy. The Royal Mother had been present at almost every lesson she had received; and, under her prudent and judicious auspices, the Heiress Presumptive was gaining the affections and good opinions of all classes of the community." The Duchess of Northumberland was also extremely attentive to the studies of her Royal Pupil, which had now become numerous, and, in some respects, laborious, including a deep research into a variety

of subjects, which the young daughters of fashion would consider far too dry and abstruse even to glance at. The best means, however, were taken to carry her through this course, by alternating exercise and amusement with it ; and much of the proficiency she had arrived at, both in her studies and accomplishments, must be attributed to the habit of early rising, united to the punctuality with which every movement in the Palace was regulated. Each hour of the day had its allotted employment, and the Princess turned from one to the other with an alacrity which went far towards ensuring her success.

That the moral system of education adopted was equally praiseworthy may be presumed from the fact, that the little Princess was encouraged, from her early childhood, to contribute a portion of her private pocket-money annually to the payment of her deceased Father's debts, with the filial desire of relieving his memory from the stigma which she had been taught to feel must rest upon those who incur debts, to the prejudice of honest and industrious tradesmen, which they have not the means of paying. This principle has been followed up, since her Majesty's accession to the Throne, by the discharge of the whole remaining demands upon the Duke of Kent, from the Royal privy purse ; and it is even said that the debts of the Duke of York have been taken into consideration by our amiable young Sovereign, and that she has called the serious attention of the Government to the subject.

BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE.

The sun, in its wonderful and ceaseless round, once more rose upon the natal day of the youthful Princess. This annual festival was celebrated with the customary honours, which it would be vain repetition to dwell upon at any length in this place; but the following poetical tribute to an anniversary so dear to England's hopes, said to be the production of Allan Cunningham, and published in the *Metropolitan Magazine*, cannot but be read with interest.

ON THE BIRTHDAY OF THE PRINCESS VICTORIA.

From the white cliffs of Dover, to Pentland Firth,
 Rejoice, for a Queen had this morning birth!
 The politic Bess, and the conquering Anne,
 Our green Isle ruled with more might than man;
 And peace, it is said, and joy shall abound,
 And genius smile when a third is crowned.
 A third is come—on her bright birth-day,
 New string the harp, and new nerve the lay;
 And tell how her coming, by prophets of old
 Was in visions seen, and in songs foretold;
 How they saw her in gladness and glory pass,
 Like the phantom monarchs in Banquo's glass.
 Nought was heard but joy, nought seen but a smile
 In England's, Scotland's, and Ireland's Isle.
 Earth, sea, and air were at peace that morn,
 When Princess, the third of our land, was born;
 Shapes shone in the sky;—in the ancient woods,
 The haunted mountains, and lonesome floods,

A sound not mortal they say there went,
 'Twas Nature uttering her glad consent;
 Men added their voices, and shout on shout,
 From cottage and castle came mirthsomenly out,
 And a hoary old shepherd, while life's last sand
 Was running, cried "God is yet with our land."
 From dark St. Michael to Orkney's foam,
 Earth seems to know that a Queen is come:
 Had the mountains a voice we should hear a cry,
 From Criffel, brown Skiddaw, and Plinlimmon high;—
 "Our sides, untrod by a foeman's feet,
 "Our tops where the cloud and the Eagle meet,
 "And the Fairies dance to the charmed pipe's sound,
 "Is the fittest place for our Queen to be crowned."
 Had the sea a tongue, from its fathomless brine,
 It would offer her homage and say, "I am thine:
 "From east to west, and from pole to pole
 "I own thee Queen, and I yield me whole;"
 Could the Islands speak, they would cry amain,
 "Queen of all the Islands, come hither and reign."
 The Alps and the Andes would shout o'er the wave,—
 "Princess of freemen, come touch us and save!"
 Old Rome, as she grovels, and numbers her beads,
 And sums up her relics, and settles her creeds,
 With her feet unshod and her bald head bared,
 And with all the spirit her priests have spared,
 Shall turn to thee, on this troubled globe,
 She may hope to live if she touch thy robe.

O never, no never, was maiden born
 To such glorious hopes; from the rustling corn,
 The pastures, valleys, and headlands wild,
 Sweet tongues were heard, saying "Bless thee child."
 The green oak said to his neighbour, the pine,—
 "We'll bear her in triumph and rule o'er the brine;
 "While wood can swim, and while winds can urge,
 "The bellying sails o'er the anoring surge:

"While lads from Thames, and Tweed, and Shannon
 "Can guide the rudder, and level the cannon,
 "And smile in battle—so long shall we
 "Crown her, and keep her the Queen of the Sea."
 The lilies of Bourbon all tremble like reeds,—
 Spain drops her musket and snatches her beads,—
 The bear of the Russias, all sullen and slow,
 Slinks savagely back to its deserts of snow;—
 The two-headed eagle, her talons and beak
 New reddened in life's blood, flies off with a shriek:
 And the stars of America, waked nigh the full
 Of their glory, before thee shine dimly and dull.
 The oppressor his sword, and the tyrant his chain,
 Drop trembling, and sigh, "They are useless and vain."
 Hail Queen of the Ocean, how bright in thy hand
 Is the sceptre which rules both on water and land!

Oh, fairest and gentlest! slight not my line,
 When thy name lends its lustre to verse more divine;
 From the heart of the Island of which thou art heir,
 What strains shall be breathed yet of rapture and prayer!
 In verse, like thy glory, triumphant and long
 Thou wilt reign the crown'd Princess of poem and song.
 The heart sunk in sadness shall see thee and laugh;
 On his gold look the miser and reckon it chaff;
 The mother shall lift up at arm's length her child,
 And bid it look on thee; the rude and the wild
 Grow gentle before thee, and aged men cry—
 "Thank God we have seen thee before that we die."
 The hero shall name thee when drawing his sword,
 The preacher shall name thee while preaching the word!
 The young bride shall name thee while vowing her vow;
 And the poet muse on thee with light on his brow.

Oh, fairest and best! the proud kings of thy blood
 Are but types of thy splendour on mainland and flood;

Mind shall rule—talents flourish—and not as of old,
Will greatness be weighed in a balance of gold :
The time and the Princess are come, and the reign
Of genius and glory shall glad us again.

SECOND VISIT TO THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

THE return of the illustrious Princess and her Mother to their beautiful abode, Norris Castle, East Cowes, on the 1st of July, 1833, was welcomed with delight by the neighbourhood, the more so as the Duchess of Kent assured the inhabitants, in answer to their address of congratulation, that she had brought her daughter amongst them thus early in the season purposely that she might join in those national and healthful recreations, which are carried on at this spot with so much liberality and spirit. Accordingly, on the very next day their Royal Highnesses, with a large party, visited Carisbrook Castle; and on the following commenced their excursions on board the *Emerald* yatch, which they frequently enjoyed during a large portion of the day; the Princess, with the younger part of the company present, sometimes, in a calm sea, dancing on deck to the music of the piano-forte, played by the Royal Duchess.

On the day week after their arrival, they accepted with pleasure the invitation of the Mayor of Southampton, to be present at the opening of the new landing Pier at that place. Their Royal Highnesses were accordingly the first persons to land at it, in

the presence of about twenty thousand spectators ; the Duchess observing, as soon as she set her foot upon it, " It affords me great pleasure to name this pier, *the Royal Pier*, and to add our sincere good wishes that it may promote the prosperity of the town." Their Royal Highnesses then entered a marquee erected on the pier, where they partook of a cold collation, in company with the Mayor and Corporation, and afterwards returned to the island, in the *Emerald* yacht as they had arrived.

A few days afterwards their Royal Highnesses experienced the still higher gratification of being present at the consecration of St. James's Chapel, East Cowes, the first stone of which they had jointly laid two years before. The Chapel, which is capable of holding about nine hundred persons, was completely filled before the arrival of their Royal Highnesses, who were received by the Chapel-wardens, and conducted to the pew appropriated to their use. At eleven o'clock, the Bishop of Winchester entered, accompanied by his chaplain, and about twenty clergy of the neighbourhood, and the ceremony of consecration was immediately proceeded in ; the Bishop afterwards preached an excellent sermon from the seventeenth chapter of St. Matthew, and part of the fourth verse. At the conclusion of the service, their Royal Highnesses drove to the residence of Mr. Nash, the architect, where they partook of re-

freshments with the Bishop, and many of the distinguished visitors of the island.

Their Royal Highnesses also honoured several of the vessels belonging to the royal yacht squadron with a visit, particularly the *Falcon*, the property of the commodore, Lord Yarborough; the Earl of Durham's *Louisa*, in which they sailed for three hours; and the *Arundel*, belonging to the Duke of Norfolk. They were present at all the regattas and boat races which took place in the neighbourhood during the season—a species of amusement in which the Princess Victoria took great delight, and to which she liberally contributed, conjointly with her Royal mother, by frequently presenting additional prizes to be contested for.

Lord Yarborough and the Earl of Durham were the only noblemen who were gratified by the presence of the illustrious visitors at a private fête. They visited the former, on the occasion of the annual meeting of the Carisbrook archers, at his beautiful Swiss villa St. Lawrence, situated on one of the loveliest spots of this lovely island, at the distance of about two miles and a half from his lordship's more splendid seat Appuldurcombe Park, and sixteen from Cowes. The company, amounting to about six hundred in number, had nearly all arrived before one o'clock; at which hour the *Emerald* yacht, with the royal standard flying, was espied in the distance. The arrangements for the landing of the Royal party by a

temporary staircase were admirable; and this having been effected, the Duchess was conducted by Lord Yarborough, and the Princess by his eldest son, to an ornamental pavilion erected in the grounds, and the amusements immediately commenced with an exhibition of rockets, for the purpose of showing their efficiency in aiding the mariners of shipwrecked vessels. After this display the ground was regulated for the shooting, which was carried on till four o'clock with much spirit; the graceful costume of the lady archers adding greatly to the picturesque nature of the scene; it consisted of a white muslin dress over grass-green silk, with girdle and shoulder-knots of green; also a white chip hat, with green ribbons. The Royal visitors were now led to a superb temporary banqueting-room, one hundred and forty feet in length, and of a proportionate width, and were placed at the head of a cross-table; the noble host and his family, the Duchess of Northumberland, and several other ladies of the highest rank being seated near them. At about six o'clock, their Royal Highnesses, followed by the whole of the fair guests, adjourned to the lawn, where the successful toxopholites received their prizes from the hands of the Princess Victoria. At seven, the Duchess and her daughter departed, having conferred the greatest pleasure by their kind and affable manners, and their evident desire to mingle with the company, un-

restrained by the cumbersome observances of strict etiquette. Of the Princess, it was observed, that she looked extremely lovely, bearing a more womanly appearance than might have been expected from her tender years.

The Earl of Durham's assembly consisted of the juvenile nobility resident in the island, who were invited to meet the Princess Victoria at a *fête-champetre*, at Egypt House. The young party met about two o'clock, and perambulated the grounds, in which many temporary pavilions, alcoves, &c. had been erected, till half-past three, when the Duchess and the Princess were led to the banqueting-room, followed by the whole company. After dinner, their Royal Highnesses, accompanied by the Earl and Countess of Durham, and their little son Viscount Lambton, the Earl of Erroll, and Sir John Conroy, embarked in the barge of the *Louisa*, to witness the sub-marine performances of Mr. Bryer, a celebrated diver, who descended a ladder placed on the side of a small cutter, which had brought him from Portsmouth, and remained under water fifteen or twenty minutes, bringing up with him a quantity of stones in a basket. This exhibition both surprised and interested the Princess, to whom Mr Bryer also showed a piece of plank which he had brought up from the wreck of the *Boyne*, Portsmouth. About six o'clock dancing commenced upon the lawn, and continued for so

hours, the Princess joining in several quadrilles, and in a country dance, which she led off with one of Lord Durham's young daughters as her partner. In the evening, a beautiful display of fire-works took place, after which their Royal Highnesses took their leave, and the juvenile party separated almost immediately.

TOUR OF THE SOUTHERN COAST.

The Duchess of Kent made use of the opportunity afforded by this visit to the Isle of Wight, to show her daughter a portion of the south-west country, in a tour of the coast which they made in the Emerald yacht as far as Plymouth. They left Norris Castle on Monday the 29th of August, and landed first at WEYMOUTH, at about three o'clock on the same day. They were received, at the precise spot at which King George the Third and his family were accustomed to embark and land, on their marine excursions, during their repeated visits to this favoured watering place, by the Mayor and Corporation, the various clubs and benefit-societies of the town, with their bands and banners, and a numerous assemblage of the inhabitants. Their Royal Highnesses immediately entered an open carriage and drove to the Royal Hotel, from the windows of which they acknowledged the rapturous greetings of the populace for a considerable length of time. In the course of

the afternoon, they again proceeded in their barouche through the principal streets, to the great delight of the immense crowd who followed them. They alighted, and made many purchases at the Royal Library, and walking from thence to Handy's Museum, inspected his collection of shells and fossils, with which they were much pleased, and the Princess Victoria desired that a complete set of British shells should be sent to her at Norris Castle, with a particular injunction that not one foreign specimen should be included in the order. In the evening the illustrious ladies entertained a large party to dinner at the Hotel, and afterwards viewed the illuminations, which were extremely brilliant, notwithstanding the short notice the inhabitants had received of the probability of the royal visit.

The next day their Royal Highnesses received an address of congratulation from the Mayor and Corporation of Weymouth, and at two o'clock departed for Melbury, the seat of the Earl of Ilchester. At every place they passed through on their route they were received with testimonies of the most heartfelt welcome ; at DORCHESTER and MAIDEN NEWTON, especially, the inhabitants had made every preparation to receive them with *éclat* ; in passing through the former place the Princess stood up in the carriage until she reached the extremity of the Town, that she might the better return the loyal salutations of the spectators, and as the horses

were driven at a walking pace, an excellent opportunity was thus afforded of noticing the intellectual countenance and graceful manners of the youthful Scion of Royalty.

At MELBURY, their Royal Highnesses were met by a select party, assembled in their honour; and they remained, during Wednesday, the guests of the Earl of Ilchester. Their Royal Highnesses had intended to pay a visit to Sherborne on that day, but were prevented by the slight indisposition of the Princess, which rendered it advisable that she should make use of so favourable an opportunity of taking a little rest, before prosecuting the remainder of the voyage.

On Thursday, the 1st of August, the Duchess and her interesting child took leave of the Earl of Ilchester, and the Ladies Theresa and Caroline Strangways, his youthful daughters, and departed for LYME REGIS, whither they arrived at about eleven o'clock, escorted by a guard of honour from the Dorsetshire yeomanry cavalry, amidst the acclamations of thousands, the ringing of bells, the firing of guns, and the music of attending bands—the houses in the Streets through which they passed being decorated with flowers, evergreens, and triumphal arches. On the pier they received an address from the Mayor and Corporation, and immediately embarked for TORQUAY, the harbour of which they entered at six o'clock in the evening. Their Royal Highnesses, on landing, proceeded im-

mediately to the hotel, where they received, at seven, a deputation from the inhabitants, with the following address, which is deserving of record, on account of the allusions contained in it to the happy anniversary on which it was presented, and to the circumstance of the landing of King William the third at that Port :—

To Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.

“May it please your Royal Highness,

“We, His Majesty’s loyal subjects, the inhabitants of Torquay and its vicinity, request that Your Royal Highness will accept, for yourself and your illustrious Daughter, a hearty welcome to this part of Devonshire.

“On this day, the anniversary of the accession of the House of Brunswick, we see among us with peculiar pleasure, Her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria; whose acquaintance with the history of her country has, doubtless, reminded her that this our Bay had the honour of receiving King William, when he landed in England, and laid the foundation of that happy settlement, under which her Royal Highness has become the Heiress Presumptive to the throne of this realm.

“This favoured day is also the anniversary of a splendid Naval Victory; and we hope that the recollection of Nelson, and his companions at the Nile, will induce Your Royal Highnesses to prolong your stay here, so as to allow us to display before you, our humble endeavours to preserve among Englishmen a love of the Sea, and to emulate the excellence of the British Navy.

“We pray God to bless Your Royal Highness, and Her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria, with health and happiness.”

To which her Royal Highness returned the follo in g gracious answer :—

“Gentlemen—I cannot express to you, how gratified the Princess and myself are, with the cordial reception which th^e

loyalty of the inhabitants of Torquay to the King, has led them to give us, as Members of his Majesty's family.

"On this particular day, I feel myself called on to observe that the Princess, communicating as she does with all classes of Society, is deeply conscious of the sacred importance of the trust which may be eventually committed to her charge, and fully impressed with the conviction, that, to be the Constitutional Sovereign of a free people, is the most exalted object of human ambition.

"I regret that our stay at this charming spot will not allow us to participate in the National recreation you allude to; but it has ever been my pride to lead the Princess to regard with warm feelings all the recollections that belong to this day, in relation to the Naval service of the country."

An accident happened which greatly marred the enjoyment of the Royal party at this beautiful place; a shoemaker of the Town made a very elegant pair of shoes, of which he intended to solicit the Princess Victoria's acceptance; and, in his eagerness to present them, pressed through the crowd to approach the Royal Carriage, when unfortunately the bayonet of one of the yeomanry belonging to the guard of honour, ran accidentally into his eye, and completely forced it from its socket. The Duchess and the youthful Princess, who both witnessed the accident, were exceedingly distressed by it: they immediately ordered that the poor man should be placed under the care of a skilful surgeon, and that the greatest care should be taken of him at their expense: the Duchess afterwards settled a pension upon him for life, intimating at the same time that, in case he should lose the sight of his

other eye, of which some fears were at first entertained, the allowance should be increased.

On Friday morning, previous to leaving Torquay, the Princess expressed a desire to see the prize cups for the regatta which was to take place on that day, and which she much regretted she could not remain to witness ; and after they had been shown to her, she walked with the Duchess and suite, preceded by the band, and escorted by a large assemblage of the inhabitants, to the pier, where they embarked on board the *Emerald*, under many salutes from the adjacent hills and from the Yachts in the Bay. At about three o'clock their Royal Highnesses again landed at

PLYMOUTH,

and rested there till the succeeding Tuesday, spending much of their time at Devonport, where they minutely examined every thing connected with the Dock Yard, and saw much of the Naval and Military Officers assembled at that station.

Saturday was a busy day with the Princess ; she rose with the dawn, and after an early breakfast gave audience, together with her Royal Mother, to several Officers of distinction ; and afterwards received the Mayor and Corporation in the assembly room, which was crowded with the gentry of the Town and neighbourhood. Their Royal Highnesses, having ascended a temporary platform erected at the head of the room, the Recorder read an

appropriate address, to which the Duchess of Kent returned the following striking answer :

“ Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

“ It is very agreeable to the Princess and myself to hear the sentiments you convey to us. It is also very gratifying to us, to be assured that we owe all those kind feelings to the attachment you bear the King, as well as to his predecessors of the House of Brunswick, from recollections of their paternal sway.

“ The residence of the Princess and myself in the Isle of Wight, has allowed me, as a part of her education, to visit the coast by sea, which is congenial to the habits of the Nation.

“ I therefore was anxious to bring her to this great arsenal, so associated with our naval renown, and where we have found ourselves so cordially received by its inhabitants.

“ The object of my life is to render the Princess worthy of the affectionate solicitude she inspires ; and if it be the will of Providence she should fill a higher station, (I trust most *fervently* at a very distant day), I shall be fully re-paid for my anxious care, if she is found competent to discharge the sacred trust. For, communicating, as the Princess does, with all classes of society, she cannot but perceive that the greater the diffusion of religion, knowledge, and the love of freedom, in a country, the more orderly, industrious, and wealthy is its population : and that with the desire to preserve the constitutional prerogatives of the crown, ought to be co-ordinate the protection of the people, and the encouragement of that principle of progressive amelioration, the full developement of which is not only the greatest source of advantage to the country, but of security to the throne.”

All steps were now directed towards the Hoe, where the Princess was to present the 89th Royals with a new stand of colours. Here were seen all the regular troops composing the garrison, drawn out in line, extending from the eastern to the

animating scene, which was yet by the appearance of Royalty. A numerous staff, preceded their march on to the ground; the Duchess, their suite following in two open square being formed, the new colours by Colonel Birch of the Engineers, Pym of the Artillery, to the front carriage, when the Rev. Richard Dugmore to the Garrison, offered up the following

“O Almighty God, the protector of the weak, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is long, we humbly beseech thee, with thine accusations thy servants, who are assembled this day, to thy colours to thy honour and service.

“Thy providential care, we are assured times in behalf of those who faithfully serve thee to all places, even the remotest corners of the earth; therefore, O gracious Lord, to listen to our most earnest prayers, and take all those who are under these sacred banners into thy more immediate protection, and a proper sense of religion.

“Extend, O Lord, thy protection to our most gracious Sovereign King William, and all the Royal Family, more particularly to Her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria, now present; give them health and ability to fulfil the important duties of their high stations; and may we, and all their subjects, by loyalty to our King—by submission to the Laws—and the integrity of our lives, continue to deserve those blessings at thy hands.

“Grant these, and all other mercies, through the merits and mediation of thy Son, our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.”

The Duchess of Kent then addressed the Colonel as follows :—

“Sir,—I accede to the wish expressed, that the Princess should present to his Majesty’s 89th Regiment their new colours: she will do so with all the feelings that should distinguish a British Princess. The Princess’s feelings have already, in reading the history of her country, responded to the national pride every Briton must feel, in looking back on the splendid achievements of the military force of this country. They are proved memorials of the past, and best guarantee to the nation that if, to support our honour, it is necessary to unfurl these colours before an enemy, the 89th Regiment will not only recollect the deeds of their brother soldiers of former times, but those that have marked the gallant career of this regiment, in every quarter of the globe, more particularly at those places (Egypt, Java, Ava, Niagara) which are borne on the colours the Princess now confides to the Regiment in the King’s name.”

During the delivery of the address, Colonel Sir Edw. Miles, knelt on his right knee; and at its conclusion the colours were received by the Duchess, who delivered them into the hands of the young Princess, by whom they were graciously presented to the junior ensigns. The word of command being given, the grenadier company advanced and re-

ceived the colours, which bore the words "Egypt, Java, Niagara, and Ava," and were immediately trooped in the usual manner, the band striking up the celebrated military air of—"The British Grenadiers."

Sir Edward Miles then addressing the Princess, said—

"In the name of the officers and soldiers of the 89th Regiment, I return most sincere and grateful thanks for the distinguished and exalted honour your Royal Highness has conferred on the 89th Regiment, by the presentation of these banners."

The newly-unfurled colours were then paraded along the whole lines, the officers and soldiers presenting arms.

On leaving the Hoe, the party proceeded to Devonport; and, having partaken of a *déjeûné* at the House of Admiral Hargood, spent a considerable time in the Dock Yard, after which they returned to their Hotel at Plymouth, and entertained a large party at dinner.

On Sunday, their Royal Highnesses attended Divine Service at the Dock Yard Chapel, Devonport, and afterwards drove to Mount Edgecumbe, where they greatly enjoyed, for some hours, the delightful scenery of that truly beautiful spot.

On Monday, their Royal Highnesses, having expressed their intention of making a cruise to the Eddystone Lighthouse, embarked in their Barge, and proceeded to the *Forte* Frigate, attended by the heads of the Naval and Military departments,

when the Frigate, with the *'Dee* Steamer in company, weighed anchor, and made all sail out of the sand, beating through the western passage, and sailing about a mile and a half southwards of the Eddystone, in order that the Princess might studiously observe it, after which the Frigate tacked and stood in. About this time the *Dee*, passing close under her quarter, commenced firing shell and shot, in order to gratify the Royal party with a specimen of sea gunnery, one of the guns discharged being an eighty-four pounder. At five in the afternoon the Royal party left the *Forte*, and proceeded to view the Breakwater, attended by Mr. Stuart, the Superintendant of the works, who explained to them the whole nature of this stupendous undertaking, presenting them with plans of it, and with specimens of the stone used in its erection. The Princess was highly interested, and repeatedly expressed her astonishment at the magnitude of the work, observing that "although she had heard much of it previously to her visit to Plymouth, her expectations were more than realized in the vastness and grandeur of the conception and the skill with which it had been followed up." Her Royal Highness peculiarly enjoyed this day's excursion; the weather was delightfully fine, and in returning homewards she danced, in real mirth of heart, on the quarter deck of the *Forte*.

On Tuesday morning the Royal party took their departure from Plymouth, with many expressions

of the pleasure their visit had afforded them, and of thanks for the cordial reception they had met with ; they proceeded in the Emerald Yacht to Dartmouth, and thence by land through Torquay, Teignmouth, Dawlish, Exeter, Honiton, and Wareham, to Swanage, where they again embarked and reached Norris Castle, East Cowes, in safety, after a delightful fortnight's tour, which, in regard to the loyalty and affectionate feeling that constantly awaited them, was but a repetition of such scenes as those already recorded in their more northerly excursion of the preceding year. The young Princess, the chief object of attention, was every where described as attracting the affections of the people by the amiable simplicity of her manners ; her person too seems to have made a very generally pleasing impression. At

EXETER

her appearance excited even unusual interest, owing to her having been already shewn there as an Infant, and the character of her Royal Father having been well known and appreciated in that City. The Royal Travellers did not alight here on the present occasion, but received an address from the Mayor and Corporation in their open Barouche, the Princess Victoria standing upright in the carriage, and repeatedly nodding and curtseying, in answer to the enthusiastic greetings of the spectators. The ob-

servation made upon her, during this cursory introduction, was, that she possessed an exceedingly interesting countenance, and a beautiful blue eye ; that her features bore strong traces of the illustrious House of Brunswick, with an especial resemblance, particularly in the forehead and upper part of the face, to the late lamented Princess Charlotte ; and that her whole appearance and demeanour were indicative of intelligence, benevolence, and affability.

The reception of their Royal Highnesses at

SWANAGE,

where they rested on the last night of their excursion, was of so distinguished a kind that it would be unjust to omit a particular mention of it in this place. The Inhabitants of this pleasant little Town had only been apprised of the intended visit in the morning of the day on which it was to take place ; but the whole population, with the Rector and Churchwardens at their head, were immediately on the alert ; they stationed themselves on Court Hill, the western extremity of Swanage, through which the Royal party must pass on their way to the Manor House Hotel, at its eastern end. Owing, however, to the late hour of their arrival, which did not take place till eight o'clock in the evening, the ceremonial prepared for their reception could not be fully executed ; but the Princess and her Mother were received on the steps of the Hotel by

the young ladies of the place, who, simply attired in white, strewed flowers before them quite up to their rooms. This picturesque exhibition of attachment was received by the Duchess with the utmost courtesy, and by her lovely Daughter with mirthful sweetness. Their Royal Highnesses afterwards dined nearly in public, as not even a blind was permitted to be drawn down in their apartment during the evening.

The next morning, at an early hour, the Town again presented a lively spectacle, the band playing on the Green opposite to the Hotel. The great room was soon lined with all the Ladies of the neighbourhood, the Gentlemen having formed avenues in the passages of the Hotel. At ten o'clock the Rev. T. O. Bartlett, Rector of Swanage, accompanied by the Churchwardens and many other Gentlemen residents, attended at the Manor House Hotel by appointment, and their Royal Highnesses, with Sir John Conroy and their suite, proceeded from their private apartments to the great room, where they received the assembled company with great condescension. The following address was then read by the Rector :—

“ To her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.

“ May it please your Royal Highness,

“ We, the Rector, Churchwardens, and principal Inhabitants of the Town of Swanage, humbly approach your Royal Highness, to offer our most respectful congratulations on the arrival

of your Royal Highness, and your illustrious Daughter, in this place.

“We feel highly honoured at this condescending visit of Royalty, the first, perhaps, ever paid to our retired little Town ; and we beg to assure you of our loyalty and attachment to the House of Brunswick. We sincerely pray that length of life, health, and every blessing, may be allotted both to your Royal Highness and your illustrious daughter, to whom we look forward (though we trust at a distant period) as the future Ruler of this Nation, and who we have reason to believe, by her present amiable disposition, (following the advice and example given by your Royal Highness), must win the love and affection of a grateful people.”

Their Royal Highnesses having listened with attention to the reading of this address, the Duchess of Kent immediately answered :—

“The Princess and myself have to thank the Inhabitants of Swanage for a most cordial reception : I regret the lateness of our arrival deprived us of the pleasure of seeing all they had done to evince it. Our embarking here closes a very interesting tour I have made with the Princess, in which we have experienced so much cordial good will as to make us deeply sensible of the loyal attachment that prevails to the King, as that feeling has led all parties to receive us (as Members of his Majesty’s family) with the affectionate attention that has marked our progress.”

“This intercourse with all classes of Society teaches the Princess the importance of the trust that may be committed to her charge, I hope at a very distant day. It impresses on her the duties which belong to the constitutional Sovereign of a free people.”

Their Royal Highnesses kindly permitted the Ladies to remain in the room during the presenta-

tion of the address. When the Royal Party were about to retire, Sir John Conroy informed the Princess that the Ladies requested her acceptance of a specimen of the manufacture of the place, in a cottage bonnet of straw, lined and trimmed with white satin. She most graciously accepted it from the hands of Mr. Barlett's eldest daughter, a young lady of about the Princess's own age, who, in presenting it, said :—

“ May it please your Royal Highness,

“ The Ladies of Swanage, anxious to testify their respect and affection for you, present this slight offering, which is the growth, and make, and trade, of this place, and the support of three or four hundred of its female Inhabitants. Since our offering is so unworthy, we esteem the more highly your kind condescension in accepting it.”

To this the Princess with great sweetness replied “ I thank you ;” and afterwards expressed herself much pleased with the work, both their Royal Highnesses promising to give their support to the trade by every means within their power. The several families residing in the Hotel were now presented to the Duchess and the Princess, in their private drawing room, and at eleven o'clock their Royal Highnesses, accompanied by their suite, walked to the Pier-head ; the youthful Princess proving the sincerity of her wishes for the prosperity of the Town, by wearing the simple gift of Swanage manufacture she had just received. This graceful compliment was not overlooked by the

Inhabitants, but added the warmth of love to the loyal cheers which hailed the embarkation of the Royal Ladies. As soon as the *Emerald* Yacht had received its precious freight on board, it was taken in tow by the Messenger Steamer, for Cowes, and went out of the Bay in majestic style, amidst the renewed acclamations of the assembled multitude ! all gratified by the events of the last few hours, which had afforded them an interesting introduction to Individuals so deservedly dear to the Nation, filling every heart with good humour and content, whilst cheerfulness and pleasure were depicted on every countenance.

PROVIDENTIAL RESCUE.

Their Royal Highnesses, it is observed above, arrived in safety at Norris Castle ; but although in safety, not without hazard to the life of the youthful Hope of England, which, by the interposition of Providence, and through the instrumentality of the master of the *Emerald* Yacht, was spared for the future blessing of the people. The Yacht, with their Royal Highnesses on board, proceeded up the harbour at Plymouth, for the purpose of effecting a landing at the Dock Yard. Unfortunately in rounding the *Active* Hulk, which lay immediately off the Yard, the *Emerald* ran foul of her, in consequence of not making sufficient allowance for the set of the tide, which was rapid at the time : the effect of the

shock was that the mainmast of the Royal Yacht was sprung in two places, and her sail and gaff fell instantaneously upon the deck. The young Princess was standing almost immediately under it at the moment, and the most serious consequences might have ensued, but for the presence of mind of the master of the *Emerald*, who, perceiving the danger that threatened the life of his royal charge, instantly sprang forward, caught her in his arms, and respectfully, but with decision, conveyed her to a place of safety. The terror and consternation that prevailed throughout the vessel may be more easily imagined than described, especially the anxiety of the tender parent, who was for a moment unconscious of the safety of her beloved child. After a short pause, all parties having in some measure recovered from the alarm occasioned by this accident, it was discovered with the most heartfelt delight that the young Princess had been preserved from injury, by the blunt but well-timed rescue of the honest sailor. Her Royal Highness, though somewhat agitated, evinced an admirable firmness throughout this trying scene ; and, having been relieved by the shedding of a few tears, was, within the space of five minutes, quite herself, and enabled to thank her preserver with grace and dignity for his timely exertions in her behalf ; whilst it was evident that her heart was lifted up in gratitude to Heaven for her perfect and Providential escape.

SECOND INTERVIEW WITH THE QUEEN OF
PORTUGAL.

Shortly after her return to the island, the Princess Victoria had an opportunity of renewing her acquaintance with the young Queen of Portugal, who, after a lengthened residence in Paris, was proceeding on board the *Soho*, an English steamer, in company with her step-mother the Duchess of Braganza, to Lisbon, to take upon herself the government of Portugal, which country had been prepared by her brave father, Don Pedro, to receive her as its Sovereign. Her Majesty landed at Portsmouth early in September, and was immediately invited to visit the King and Queen at Windsor, where, however, she remained but a few days, returning direct to Portsmouth, in order to take advantage of the first fair wind to waft her to her native shores. As soon as she arrived the second time at Portsmouth, the Queen received a very friendly letter from the Duchess of Kent, announcing the intention of Her Royal Highness and the Princess, her daughter, to pay a visit of congratulation to Her Majesty and the Duchess of Braganza in the early part of the following day. Accordingly, at twelve o'clock on Monday the 16th of September, their Royal Highnesses entered the harbour of Portsmouth in the *Emerald* yacht, and immediately landing at the King's-

stairs in the Dock-yard, were received by Sir Thomas Williams, and conducted by him to the Admiralty-house, where the Queen of Portugal resided. The meeting of the illustrious Ladies was marked by the observance of the strictest etiquette. The young Queen and her mother-in-law were in waiting at either side of the door to receive their august Visitors. Her Imperial Majesty the Duchess of Braganza, first saluted the Duchess of Kent on the lips, and then the Princess Victoria ; her Most Faithful Majesty kissed the Princess Victoria, in the first instance, and afterwards the Duchess of Kent. The Royal party then proceeded to the drawing-room, the Duchess of Kent leaning on the Duchess of Braganza, and her daughter taking the arm of the young Queen. Withdrawn, however, from the public observation, and the trammels of royalty laid aside, her youthful Majesty and the little Princess became at once upon the most affectionate and intimate terms—a happy omen, it was hoped, for the lasting friendship that should hereafter prevail between the two countries. The august party passed a considerable time in cheerful and familiar converse, during which the Duchess of Braganza presented her infant daughter to her Royal guests, who expressed themselves quite charmed with the beautiful and sprightly babe ; the Princess, in particular, always a great admirer of infants, was delighted to nurse and caress it. On taking leave, the Duchess of

Kent presented the Queen of Portugal with a beautiful miniature of the Princess Victoria, richly set in brilliants, which the Queen, it is said, highly values ; and the parting compliments having passed between the Princesses, the English guests were conducted by their Royal hostesses to the door of the Admiralty-house, and again saluted by them in the same order as before, after which their Royal Highnesses immediately embarked on their return to Cowes. And this is the last which these interesting young personages have seen of each other, for the Portuguese Queen set sail for Lisbon on the following day, and has not since travelled out of her own dominions ; but it is understood that a friendly correspondence has always been maintained between them.

VISITS TO THE VICTORY AND VESTAL MEN
OF WAR.

During this residence at Norris Castle, the Princess had the gratification of witnessing at Portsmouth, for the first time, that exhilarating and magnificent sight, the launch of a British vessel of considerable magnitude ; the brig *Racer* was christened, and afterwards glided majestically into the water, in the presence and to the great delight of the Heiress-Presumptive, who joined heartily in the cheers which hailed the ship's launch upon the bosom of the ocean. At the con-

clusion of the ceremony, Her Royal Highness and her Mother, accompanied by their suite, including the Duchess of Northumberland, who was with her in the island, purposely to lend her aid in turning these daily recreations to the formation of her Royal Pupil's mind, repaired on board the Victory; and here the young Princess was highly pleased with the novelty of inspecting the entire interior of a man-of-war. She was extremely minute in her inquiries into all matters connected with the ship, and its service, but particularly into all that related to the heroic Nelson. Some observation then being made upon the great interest which her Royal Highness seemed to take in the history of this celebrated man, she immediately replied, that she had been lately reading Southey's beautiful memoir of him, and that the circumstances of his last hours were fresh upon her memory. This incident led to further conversation on naval affairs; and her Royal Highness entered, to the surprise of some, and to the great pleasure of all present, upon a rather enlarged development of her knowledge and opinions respecting the naval history of our country. She spoke with enthusiasm of the height of glory to which England had risen through its naval in union with its military triumphs; and spoke too with a judgment and thoughtfulness far beyond her years, of the importance of that department of the sea-service, by which our commercial and mercantile

interests are upheld. This conversation, which took place between her Royal Highness and the rather numerous company of officers who attended her, was listened to with anxious interest by the assembled party, and formed, indeed, a rich treat to those who contemplated, in the youthful, the delicate, and diffident speaker, the future ruler, under Heaven, not only of the naval, but of all the destinies of this great and mighty nation. Whilst upon this subject, it may not be irrelevant to mention a circumstance illustrative of the extreme devotedness, to the exclusion of all selfish indulgence, with which the Duchess of Kent has ever given herself up to forwarding the great object of her life—the worthy education of her Royal daughter. Sir Edward Codrington, in conversing not long since with the Duchess, expressed his surprise that so much of her time should be passed on the sea-coast, and that she should so frequently make marine excursions, while it was generally understood that such objects and amusements were distasteful to her. The Duchess, in her reply, admitted that they were not altogether congenial to her inclinations; but observed, that she endeavoured to conquer her natural repugnance for the sake of the Princess, whose future prospects made it highly desirable that she should acquire some general knowledge of the nature of the shipping-interest, and of its importance to the commercial greatness of England. Their Royal Highnesses

having completed their interesting inspection of the *Victory*, seated themselves spontaneously at one of the mess-tables, and desired the dinners intended for the seamen of that mess to be laid before them; this being done, the Princess Victoria, with her mother, and all the ladies of the suite, drank of the grog, and partook of the beef and potatoes served on wooden platters, and using the knives and forks belonging to the mess. The Princess declared that the dinner was much to her liking; and the delight of the sailors at this act of condescension exceeded all bounds. Never, perhaps, were huzzas more enthusiastic and sincere than those which greeted the future Queen, on her quitting the *Victory* to return to the *Emerald* yacht. A few days afterwards, their Royal Highnesses visited, at Spithead, the *Vestal* man-of-war, equipped, and in a perfect state for sea-service, and remained on board her for seven hours and a half, partaking of refreshments provided for them with the well-known and appreciated hospitality of a British captain. The ship, which had previously been hove short, soon weighed anchor, and was in a few minutes under sail. She stood out to St. Helen's, followed by a host of yachts, and then hauling her wind, worked back through Spithead, to the westward of Cowes roads, presenting a most gratifying sight to the numerous spectators. The day was remarkably fine, and the wind just sufficient to work the vessel with facility. After

some hours, the *Vestal* returned through Cowes roads, in which the yacht squadron was lying-to, and was saluted from Cowes Castle, the yacht-club battery, and all the yachts having guns on board. She dropped anchor off Norris Castle, where she landed the illustrious Visitors under a salute from her own guns. To all these operations the young Princess paid the most accurate attention, asking innumerable questions with extraordinary acuteness. She expressed herself highly delighted with her morning's amusement, for which she thanked the captain with her accustomed grace, observing, at the same time, that she should henceforth consider herself an accomplished sailor.

MODEL OF A CORVETTE.

The admiral, superintendant, and the other officers in employ at Portsmouth, had been honoured with so much of the company of the young Princess during her present visit to the Isle of Wight, and her Royal Highness had so entirely ingratiated herself amongst this enthusiastic body by her love of the sea, and the interest she always expressed in matters connected with the navy, and more especially, perhaps, by the aptitude with which she profited by the information from time to time imbibed through her intercourse with them, that they could not think of permitting her to

depart without offering to her acceptance an appropriate token of their loyalty and love. Accordingly, Mr. Maitland, master-rigger of the dock-yard, was employed to superintend the building of the model of a corvette of twenty-two guns, which, when finished, was presented to Her Royal Highness by the officers generally, and was gracefully and gratefully accepted. The model, which was universally allowed to be a most beautiful and complete one, was on a half-inch scale, rigged on the new establishment, with all her guns, anchors, cables, boats, and running rigging complete. Her length was four feet seven inches; her extreme breadth, one foot three inches and a quarter. The Emerald yacht was sent to Portsmouth to fetch this perfect and ingenious toy, which, on the return of the Princess to London, was deposited in the inner-hall at Kensington Palace. A few days afterwards, their Royal Highnesses, on visiting Portsmouth for the purpose of inspecting the victualling establishment, desired to be introduced to Mr. Maitland, and warmly thanked him for the beautiful execution of the model, of every part of which they expressed the highest admiration.

RETURN TO KENSINGTON.

The season for these aquatic recreations was now drawing to a close, and on the 6th of November the Heiress Presumptive took her departure

from the island, amidst the regrets and lamentations of the inhabitants ; who, however, amidst the grief of parting, could not but observe with delight, the great personal improvement which four months of their refreshing breezes, combined with healthful exercise, and the relaxation of severe study, had wrought in their youthful favourite ; she had grown much during this period, and the bloom of health and beauty, which generally failed her towards the close of the London season, was now most effectively restored.

Her Royal Highness's accustomed habits of seclusion and study were resumed for the Winter months, immediately on her return to Kensington, where the Dean of Chester was in waiting to receive her ; and a fresh accession of instructors, and consequently, of diurnal lessons, was at about this time added to those already in employ.

Amongst others, the accomplished Mrs. Anderson undertook to superintend the practice of the Princess on the piano-forte, and Mr. D. F. Walker delivered his ingenious and interesting course of lectures on experimental philosophy before her Royal Highness in the grand saloon at Kensington Palace.

SERIOUS INDISPOSITION.

In the Spring of the following year both the studies and recreations of the Princess met with a considerable interruption, consequent upon the first

severe and debilitating illness which the young Princess had hitherto experienced. She took cold during the bleak March winds, and was confined to her private apartments for several weeks, during which time numberless anxious inquiries were daily made at the Palace as to the progress of her convalescence, not only by the nobility and privileged classes, but by many humbler individuals to whom she was known only by her affability and beneficence ; and when, at length, she was enabled to appear again in public, the extreme delicacy of her complexion, and the langour of her naturally bright blue eye were observed with tender regret and interest. Gradually, however, the enjoyment of her equestrian exercise, together with her daily walks and drives in Hyde Park, and its neighbourhood, restored the bloom of her cheek and the energy of her expression, and she began to enter once more into the amusements provided for her with her wonted spirit.

THE FIFTEENTH BIRTHDAY.

In the joy of her beloved uncle, the King of the Belgians, the Princess Victoria had most heartily sympathised, when, during her residence at Norris Castle in the preceding Summer, his Majesty had himself announced to her, by letter, that his young and accomplished consort, the Princess Louisa, eldest daughter of the King of the French, to whom, for the sake of the people whose unani-

mous voice had hailed him their Sovereign, he had united himself in wedlock, after fifteen years of desolate widowhood for the loved one of our land, had presented him with a son, the heir of his newly-founded kingdom ; and now with proportionate sincerity, she shared in the grief with which he communicated to her that it had pleased God to clip his budding hopes, and to make him a second time a childless father. The intelligence of this lamentable event, which took place on the 16th May, 1834, reached London just in time to prevent the Princess from partaking in the festivities attending the celebration of her fifteenth birthday, which, falling this year on a Saturday, was commemorated at Windsor by their Majesties, who entertained a large party with a state-dinner in the banqueting-room of that lovely retreat Virginia Water, and the health of the Heiress Presumptive was afterwards drunk amidst the music of attending bands, the firing of *feu-de-joie*, and the hearty huzzas of the surrounding spectators. At this party, accordingly, the young Princess was not present ; but, after the funeral of the infant Prince had been solemnized, their Majesties, to make amends for the disappointment, most affectionately gave their accustomed juvenile-ball, in honour of the auspicious anniversary, in the enjoyment of which her Royal Highness was enabled to join.

Mr. Southey, the poet-laureat, put forth on this occasion his first and only lay, dedicated to our youthful Queen, in the form of

A BIRTHDAY ODE.

VICTORIA! Royal and benign!
 A wreath of verse thy Bard shall twine;
 And welcome, with that strain divine,
 A poet's lay,
 This season sacred to the Nine—
 Thy natal day!

A merry month hath May been deemed
 Since first an English garden gleamed,
 Or England's fruitful bosom teemed
 With hidden stores,
 Long ere the Star of Brunswick beamed
 On these glad shores!

Nor less than Nature's gladsome face,
 Where no dark line of care we trace,
 Thy Royal presence sheds a grace
 On these bright hours,
 That lightly lead their joyous race
 Through paths of flowers.

Illustrious Maiden! not to thee
 "Th' inviolate Island of the free"
 Would stoop the crest, or crook the knee,
 In abject guise;
 But hope that thou may'st reign, and be
 Fair, good, and wise.

Here, by the Lakes, where tuneful shells
 Make vocal meads, and groves, and dells,
 And Wordsworth's strain majestic swells
 To patriot themes;
 Here many a voice of fervour tells
 The patriot's dreams.

And though the Bard must soon lie low,
Insensate to the generous glow,
Yet shall his loyal song still flow
 From mind to mind ;
And foster flowers of Hope that grow
 With love entwined.

When regal glory gems that brow
So humbly meek and gentle now,
May England's haughty foemen bow,
 And England's children brave
The glory of their name avow—
 The lords of land and wave !

WESTMORELAND, May, 1834.

MUSICAL FESTIVAL IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.

The disappointment occasioned to the public by the Princess Victoria's absence from the coronation ceremony was, in some degree, atoned for by her appearance at the grand performances of sacred music which took place in Westminster Abbey, in the Summer of 1834, at three of which her Royal Highness was present. At the moment their Majesties entered the royal oratory, surrounded by their family, and attended by a suite of about fifty persons, the venerable Abbey, appropriately fitted up for the occasion, and com-

pletely filled with a vast assembly of nobility and gentry, presented a most brilliant spectacle. The entire audience rose ; but the sanctity of the place forbade any more decided token of loyal and affectionate greeting. The Princess Victoria was naturally, at each of these meetings, the "observed of all observers ;" every look and gesture was subjected to critical remarks, notwithstanding which, it was generally pronounced that the tone of character indicated by her whole appearance and demeanour was delightful. With the simple and pleasureable expression of a child, her countenance was marked by an intelligent thoughtfulness, highly promising in her exalted station. She always sat between the Queen and the Duchess of Kent, at her Majesty's left hand, and seemed greatly to enjoy not only the magnificence of the scene around her, but the beauties of the performance ; plainly expressing, by her animated looks and gestures, the pleasure she was receiving. Occasionally, indeed, when particularly affected by an unexpected burst of the splendid choruses, her features became illuminated with a brilliant smile, and a charming colour flushed her cheeks with the glow of sudden delight ; then it rapidly subsided, and her fair round face, calm blue eye, and delicately-outlined mouth resumed their natural sedateness. On the first occasion, the Queen, with the greatest kindness, explained to the young Princess all the arrangements connected with the

performance, and pointed out to her every thing worthy of notice in the Abbey : her Royal Highness seemed highly diverted, entering into a spirited conversation with her Majesty ; and it was observed of the Duchess of Kent, that her whole soul seemed to be wrapped up in her interesting child, as she gazed for many minutes upon the radiant animation of her countenance with an expression of the fondest delight.

It was on this occasion that a distinguished young nobleman, to whom a romantic and hopeless passion has been ascribed, is said to have written the subjoined Acrostic :

P ropitious Heaven ! who, 'midst this beauteous blaze,
 R apt in the grandeur of the Minstrel scene,
 I s that YOUNG INNOCENT, on whom all gaze ?
 N or conscious they the while of choral strain :
 C ould I command a Guido's magic power,
 E nthusiast grown, I 'd catch thy vivid glow,
 S erene, unsullied child of sun and shower !
 S till on the parent stem allowed to blow.

V ain, worse than vain, the Bard who 'd boldly try,
 I n his most brilliant page, or loftiest lay,
 C hoice how he may be, to depict the eye,
 T he lovely eye, of that sweet smiling fay !
 O h ! 'tis the MAID, who wakes to plaudits loud,
 R ich in the treasure of an Angel face,
 I n every gift that makes a Nation proud—
 A Mother's joy—an honoured Monarch's grace !

At each of these meetings, when the Queen rose to depart, she kissed her interesting Niece with much affection ; her embrace was cordially returned ; and, after sundry greetings and pleasantries, all of which passed in the presence of the vast assembly, the party broke up. There were those who, never content with the deportment of royalty, be it what it may, and probably amongst the first to deprecate the domestic dissensions which were at one time known to exist in that exalted circle, were, nevertheless, found to entertain some puerile objections to these visible tokens of cordiality, and to observe upon them, that "although they afforded gratifying indications of strong family affection, and although the hundreds who witnessed them felt the amiability of the sentiments in which they originated, yet the public, who like to hear of the unanimity of the Royal Family, do not like to see it vulgarized by a needless exhibition. The existence of the most perfect amity amongst all the branches of the House of Hanover is a source of unfeigned satisfaction to every one ; but it is superfluous to draw out their domestic happiness before the eyes of the world. The anxious sympathies of kindred feelings are not a fitting display for indiscriminate admiration." These hypercritical remarks will not, probably, appear very judicious to those who consider that the great eminence upon

which such personages stand naturally subjects them to the continual observation and gaze of every spectator wherever they appear, and that they are subject to this trying ordeal in a proportionate degree in private as well as in public assemblies ; if, therefore, they did not accustom themselves to feel at all times independent of outward circumstances, they would be deprived of all freedom of action, and their deportment would be always tinged with a painful air of uneasiness and constraint. Believing, then, the manners of the Royal Circle to be on this, as on all similar occasions, equally removed from reserve or intentional display, it can surely afford only pleasure and satisfaction to a large assemblage of spectators to witness such interchanges of endearments as bespeak the entire harmony and affection that prevail amongst its numerous members.

The reception which the youthful Heiress always met with from the congregated multitudes, on her way to and return from the Abbey, was most especially gratifying. Thousands saw her Royal Highness on these occasions who had never seen her before ; and though various opinions existed with respect to her personal beauty, yet her bland and open countenance—her lively and attractive manners—her simple, yet dignified demeanour—and the bright smile of pleasure that illuminated her features, as she acknowledged, with the un-

affected sincerity of youth, the enthusiastic expressions of popular attachment—proved equally attractive to all.

INTENDED VISIT TO SOUTH WALES.

The northern portion of the Principality having been honoured with a royal visit in the summer of 1832, the southern became naturally anxious to partake of a similar privilege ; and many were the reports and insinuations which reached the ears of the Heiress Presumptive and her Mother, expressive of the universal desire. The Duchess, ever willing to gratify the future subjects of her Daughter by presenting her to their affectionate recognition, seemed anxious, should all things concur to render it conveniently practicable, to comply with the general wish ; and, thus encouraged, the Marquis of Bute transmitted to their Royal Highnesses, in the month of December, 1833, a specific invitation to attend the South Wales' Eisteddfod, which was to take place at Cardiff during the ensuing summer ; at the same time requesting that their Royal Highnesses would name the period at which it would be agreeable to them that this national festival should be celebrated. To this invitation, the Duchess of Kent returned the following condescending and considerate answer :

*"Kensington Palace,
December 23d, 1833.*

"MY LORD,

"I feel exceedingly obliged by your communication of the 16th. Having already had the pleasure to explain to you my feelings and wishes relative to the desire, so kindly expressed, to see the Princess and myself in South Wales next year, I could not, consistently with that explanation, and my anxious wish to avoid disappointment, take upon myself to name the time for holding the Eisteddfod at Cardiff, but must request it to be fixed with reference only to the various objects it is meant to meet; as, if the Princess and myself can have the happiness of visiting the southern portion of the Principality, I shall do so without considering my own convenience as to time, but take that which will suit our friends there.

"I cannot sufficiently express to Lady Bute and your Lordship, how very much gratified the Princess and myself are by your attention to us; and with our best regards to her, I beg your Lordship will believe that I am always, with great esteem,

"Your Lordship's very sincere friend,

(signed) "VICTORIA."

"To the Marquis of Bute."

Great was the joy occasioned in the favoured locality by this announcement; a general meeting of the inhabitants of Swansea was immediately called, at which an address was agreed upon, and forwarded with the least possible delay.

" To her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.

" We, the undersigned, acting in behalf of the Corporation and general Inhabitants of the Borough of Swansea, having been informed that your Royal Highness, together with your illustrious daughter, the Princess Victoria, will be pleased to visit the County of Glamorgan in the course of the ensuing summer, feel ourselves impelled, by a sense of dutiful loyalty to his Majesty the King, and by an unfeigned admiration of the virtues of so eminently exalted a member of His Majesty's Royal House, humbly and respectfully to present to your Royal Highness our cordial and earnest wish that you would graciously vouchsafe to extend your journey to this populous and loyal district of Glamorganshire. We beg leave to assure your Royal Highness, that we should derive a proud and permanent satisfaction from the opportunity of personally offering to yourself, and the amiable Princess who appears to be destined, under Divine Providence, to wear the Crown of these Kingdoms, the homage of our sincere attachment and esteem, and of our undeviating adherence to all the Constitutional attributes of the British Monarchy, yielding to none of his Majesty's subjects in obedience to the Regal authority, and attachment to the sacred person of his Majesty, and fervently hoping that the period is very distant when your Royal Highness's illustrious Daughter shall be called to that high station which will demonstrate the virtue and the value of maternal example, and prove the strong claim of your Royal Highness to the gratitude of the British people for virtuously imparting to the Sceptre its firmest strength, and to the Crown its brightest ornament."

To this Address the Royal Duchess replied,
" That should circumstances favour her anxious desire to visit South Wales during the summer, the request of the inhabitants of Swansea should

assuredly be borne in mind, and complied with, if possible."

As the time approached, however, for this long-anticipated excursion, it was found that a visit of the Princess of Hohenlohe, the eldest daughter of the Duchess of Kent, with her husband and two infant children, to her Royal Relatives in this country—the first since her marriage six years before—would altogether interfere with its prosecution: to the grievous disappointment of the Cambrians, therefore, and much to the regret of the Princess and her Mother, their residence in the Principality was postponed for the present season, and no opportunity has since offered for resuming the intention. But the abode of the Princess Feodore, for about two months at Kensington Palace, was truly an enjoyment of the most delightful kind to the young Victoria, whose heart retained a tender recollection of the endearments of sisterly love during her infancy and early childhood; and those endearments it was now a real and pure gratification to return to the infant offspring of her much-loved sister.

When, at length, the Cardiff Royal Eisteddfod was celebrated, towards the middle of August, two prizes were awarded to the two best odes in English on the Princess Victoria. The Reverend Bruce Knight having eloquently expressed the regret, unanimously felt, that the fair and Royal Subject of these prizes was not present to witness

the transports with which she would have been greeted, said, " that not less than thirty-one competitors had entered the field on this most attractive object of bardic ambition. Of these poems the greater part were necessarily rejected, as not conforming to the essential regulations of the ode. Some were mere didactic poems, others partook rather of the nature of ballads, and some, which otherwise possessed claims from their intrinsic merits, were excluded from the circumstance that their effect depended principally upon the presence of the Royal Patrons at the meeting. On careful examination the judges had awarded the first prize, a silver medal of the value of four pounds ten shillings, bearing on its reverse the arms, coronet, and supporters of the Princess, designed by George Beltz, Esq., Lancaster herald, together with a premium of ten pounds, to John Lloyd, Esq., of Dinas, author of the poem bearing the motto " The Expectancy and Rose of the Fair State ;" and the second, a premium of five pounds, to Mrs. Cornwall Baron Wilson, authoress of the next best poem, signed " Lyra." Four poems were sent in for the prize on the same subject in Welsh ; the medal was adjudged to Nestor Griffith ap William Edwards, of Llanberis.

RUMOURED EXCURSION TO IRELAND.

The above-mentioned visit of the Princess of Hohenlohe and family to England would also have

frustrated their Royal Highnesses' intention to sojourn for a time in the sister kingdom during the present summer, had such an intention ever really existed ; but probably the rumour to this effect, certainly very general at the period now spoken of, was rather founded upon the deeply-seated wish of those who propagated it, than upon any such design ever seriously entertained by the illustrious Ladies ; and might perhaps have taken its rise from the circumstance of a deputation from the Dublin and Kingstown railroad, headed by Mr. Vignoles and Mr. Mahoney, having waited by appointment on the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria, to submit to them plans for the railroad, and for the contemplated improvements in the neighbourhood of Kingstown, with which the Princess appeared much gratified, expressing the warmest interest in the prosperity of Ireland ; and with the utmost affability and condescension she gave her name to the square about to be erected at Kingstown, writing with her own hand on the map, "Victoria Square, 12th July, 1834." Immediately after this interview, it was positively asserted that their Royal Highnesses intended to be present at the opening of the railroad, and after passing a short time at Dublin, partaking of the hospitality of the Marquis Wellesley, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, and of the Duke and Duchess of Leinster, to proceed to Killarney to view its lovely lake, and the various scenes of grandeur

and magnificence with which that picturesque neighbourhood abounds.

It was said that their Royal Highnesses had been especially invited to visit the estates of the Duke of Devonshire, the Marquises of Hertford, Conyngham, and Abercorn, the Earl of Donoughmore, Lord Plunkett, and several other wealthy Irish landholders. So elated, indeed, were the warm-hearted people of the Emerald Isle at the confident anticipation of the Royal visit, that innumerable suggestions were simultaneously thrown out as to the manner in which it might be celebrated with becoming loyalty and rejoicing. It was at one time proposed that a sort of Jubilee should be held for a fortnight on the occasion; and that, as an inducement for a concourse of English visitors to follow in the wake of the Royal Party, there should be a constant succession of fancy fairs, balls, regattas, races, marine bazaars, fire-works, &c. &c. Whether any such arrangements, would have been adopted, had those ardent anticipations been realised, it is impossible to say; but it was at least manifest to all that our Irish brethren, in the exuberance of their feelings, would leave nothing undone which could evince their loyal respect and affection towards that interesting Princess in whom they delighted to contemplate their future Queen.

RENEWED VISIT TO TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

As soon as the departure of the Prince and Princess of Hohenlohe, and the other indispensable engagements of the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria would permit, they made arrangements for an autumn residence at Tunbridge Wells, and left Kensington Palace for that purpose in the month of August. Their Royal Highnesses paid a short visit to the Earl of Liverpool and his daughters at Buxsted Park by the way, and greatly enjoyed a few days' private intercourse with these amiable friends. The return of the Royal Party to Tunbridge Wells, after an absence of six years—for their Royal Highnesses had not resided there since the summer of 1828—was hailed with delight by the inhabitants of this town, and its vicinity; and every thing was done to testify their joy at the renewed visit of their beloved Patronesses. Public feeling began to manifest itself very early in the morning of the auspicious day. The yeomanry were parading the streets; flags were flying in all parts of the town; and carriages of every description were assembling to convey the wealthier inhabitants and the gentry of the neighbourhood, in procession, for some miles upon the road, to meet the expected guests; while the more humble classes, in holiday attire, were

gradually collecting in large and animated groups, and were entertained at every turn with bands of music, ringing of bells, and other demonstrations of rejoicing. At about one o'clock in the afternoon the Royal Cavalcade approached: on its arrival near Calverley House, their Royal Highnesses were greeted by an immense crowd, and were most agreeably surprised, on reaching the entrance-gate, to witness a repetition of the scene which had afforded them so much pleasure and amusement at Swanage the preceding summer; upwards of forty young ladies, from six to twelve years of age, were arranged in a line on Calverley Terrace, beautifully dressed in white, with bouquets in their hands, and their muslin aprons filled with flowers, which they strewed before the Royal carriage as it slowly passed on, their Royal Highnesses noticing them with nods and smiles of pleasure. The Duchess and her daughter had scarcely been arrived an hour, before an open barouche was ordered out, and they again appeared amongst the people, driving all round the town to view the new buildings, and the various improvements which had taken place since their last visit, and frequently stopping the carriage, in order to do so to more effect.

The next day, at twelve o'clock, a deputation waited upon their Royal Highnesses at Calverley House to present an Address, which was delivered

with very great effect by R. W. Blencowe, Esq., and was as follows :

“ May it please your Royal Highness,

“ We, the Magistrates, Clergy, and Inhabitants of Tunbridge Wells, approach your Royal Highness with feelings of dutiful attachment and respect.

“ We rejoice at being again honoured by your presence; and we are led to hope that the remembrance of your former visit, a subject of long and grateful recollection to the inhabitants of Tunbridge Wells, has not been unattended with satisfaction to your Royal Highnesses.

“ In connecting that joyful event with the present, we cannot refrain from so far adverting to the intervening period, as to express our fullest participation in those feelings of admiration and gratitude with which, during that interval, the English nation has been viewing the union of maternal affection and patriotic regard for the Institutions of the country, which has directed and characterised the education of our future Sovereign.

“ We trust, that the allusion to a subject of domestic interest, will find excuse in the deep concern, national and personal, which we cannot but feel in a matter involving such important results, and which may hereafter, under Divine Providence, exercise a momentous and happy influence on the destinies of millions.

“ While, in common with our countrymen at large, we offer our grateful acknowledgments for this prospect of national blessings, we would not be less forward in acknowledging our deep sense of more local benefits. We are grateful for the kind interest so frequently expressed and displayed by your Royal Highnesses towards our town, more especially as regards those local institutions, on the maintenance and right conduct of which, the advancement of true religion, and the real welfare of a people, must essentially depend.

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“ We pray that this interest may continue ; and that we may prove ourselves not unworthy of it—that the favorable associations connected with this place, which were formed in earlier years, and are now about to be revived, may continue to be strengthened during the course of a long, prosperous, and happy life.”

To which the Duchess replied in very gratifying terms, expressive of the pleasure the Princess and herself had derived from the very cordial reception they had met with from those of whom they entertained the kindest recollections ; and also of her confident hope and expectation that, whenever her august daughter should be called by Divine Providence to fill a higher station, she would be found competent to the faithful discharge of the sacred trust committed to her. The deputation were afterwards severally introduced to both their Royal Highnesses, and the young Princess entered with liveliness and affability into conversation with several of the gentlemen with reference to her former visit to Tunbridge Wells ; and mentioned with feelings of pleasing remembrance the beautiful specimen of their local manufacture with which the inhabitants had presented her when a child, and which still formed a useful and ornamental article of furniture in her private apartments at Kensington Palace.

With her usual munificence, the Duchess of Kent immediately distributed about two hundred and fifty pounds amongst the charitable institu-

tions of Tunbridge Wells alone, and communicated to the race-committee her intention to present a silver cup to be run for at the ensuing races.

A FANCY SALE.

Their Royal Highnesses began to enter immediately into the occupations and amusements afforded by the locality they had chosen for their temporary residence. They appeared every day upon the Parade, generally during the performance of the band, in which they seemed to take great pleasure ; sometimes requesting that certain pieces might be played, which was of course done according to their desire, and such pieces immediately became fashionable favourites ; they constantly drank the waters as early as eight o'clock in the morning ; frequently walked through the town, making purchases at a variety of shops, and rode out twice a day, on horseback, and in their open carriage, whenever the weather permitted. A few days after their arrival they attended a fancy sale, held under the auspices of the most distinguished ladies of the place, for the benefit of the funds for building a new national school-house for boys, towards which they had already subscribed one hundred pounds. At twelve o'clock, their Royal Highnesses entered the sale-room, where they found a numerous and genteel company assembled to receive them. They were met at the door by the Reverend Mr. Pope, and a nosegay was presented to each of them by Miss

Jesse Fisher. Their Royal Highnesses were then conducted to the table at which Lady Maria Meade presided; and thence to the table of Miss Pope, and her sister, Mrs. Henry Bishop; thence to that of Mrs. Tighe; and afterwards to that of Mrs. Blencowe and Miss Cipriani. Their Royal Highnesses made numerous purchases, and to a large amount, at each table, inquiring for articles worked by the ladies themselves, and repeatedly expressing their admiration of the beauty and elegance of the scene. After about an hour passed in inspecting every part of the room, they departed, carrying with them the hearts of all present. Their Royal Highnesses honoured the bazaar not only with their patronage and presence, but with their own work. Miss Pope's table was graced with six articles made by them, which it is superfluous to say, met with ready purchasers. In the course of conversation with the ladies who kept the tables, upon the probable results of the sale, their Royal Highnesses spoke of the warm interest they felt in the success of their benevolent exertions, and the Princess Victoria promised to lay the first stone of the new building.

THE DUCHESS'S BIRTHDAY.

This joyful anniversary, which it may be remembered was always looked upon by the little Princess from her earliest infancy as the great holiday of the year, has been seldom celebrated

in a manner more simply affecting, or more truly in consonance with the amenity and benevolence of the Royal Duchess and her promising child, than upon the occasion now referred to. It happened to fall on the present year on Sunday, and was therefore no farther noticed on that day than by the heartfelt congratulations of the young Princess, and the more respectful, though scarcely less affectionate compliments of the household. Their Royal Highnesses attended divine service at the chapel of ease as usual; and there, doubtless, their native piety was poured forth in gratitude for the manifold and great blessings with which the return of this day found them surrounded: the Princess, especially, thankful for the health and energy which animated the frame of her much-loved parent, enabling her still to be the life and soul of that system of education which, under the blessing of Providence, was to provide for the future benefit of millions; whilst the maternal heart would be lifted up in thanksgiving for the happiness its widowed state was deriving from the increasing growth in stature, health, and beauty of her who was at once its darling and the people's; but above all, for the daily developement of those dawning virtues and intellectual graces which, answering to her earnest prayers, promised to reward her anxious and unceasing exertions, and ultimately to become a crowning happiness to

the nation, and the pride and solace of her own declining years.

On Monday the 18th of August, however, the birthday of the illustrious Patroness of the Wells was celebrated there with every demonstration of attachment. Early in the day a procession was formed of the children of the national schools, both boys and girls, and of the infant and Sunday schools, to the number of three hundred and eighty, accompanied by their respective masters and mistresses, and headed by the clergy and the ladies of the several school committees. They walked to Calverley House, where they arrived at twelve o'clock, and halted before the Duchess and her Royal Daughter, who, with their household and visitors, were assembled under the trees in front of the mansion, to receive this tribute of grateful respect. Here the elder scholars of the national school presented to the Duchess a basket of flowers, and a copy of congratulatory verses on the return of her Royal Highness's natal-day, both of which were accepted with gracious kindness. When the children had all passed in review before the Duchess and the Princess, her Royal Highness desired that the ladies of the committees might be presented to her; and, after a few words of kindness to each, she invited them into her house, where they partook of luncheon, and both their Royal Highnesses

warmly expressed the delight and interest which the scene they had just witnessed had excited in their minds. The ladies then retired to superintend the distribution of plum-pudding and currant-wine to the children, who were seated in groups in the Grove, in view of their Royal Patronesses' window; a vast company having assembled to enjoy this picturesque and interesting sight. When all the children had been regaled, they sung several hymns, ending with "God save the King," and the *fête* was happily concluded with loud and lengthened cheers in honour of the Duchess of Kent, and of the youthful Princess, who already reigned in the hearts of all present; for such scenes as these were likely to make a lasting impression on the minds of those who witnessed them, and most especially on the tender hearts of the rising generation, a little colony of whom were thus bound by the ties of love and gratitude to this exemplary Mother and her lovely Child.

In the afternoon, a public dinner took place at the Sussex Hotel, which by the Duchess's kindness was liberally supplied with venison; and, in the evening, an interesting spectacle was presented at the Theatre. Mr. Sloman, the manager, generously placed the two centre boxes at the disposal of the committee for the reception of the illustrious Visitors, expressly to accommodate the young ladies who had so lately strewed the Royal path

with flowers, and they all appeared in the white muslin dresses worn on that memorable occasion ; the exuberant delight expressed by this innocent little throng formed the most attractive entertainment to the remaining portion of the audience, the performances being peculiarly adapted for their amusement. The day closed with a pretty general illumination of the town ; an exhibition of fireworks in the Grove, which their Royal Highnesses viewed from the windows of Calverley House, and a ball given at the Public Assembly Rooms, and attended by the chief members of the Royal household, and by all the fashionable inhabitants and visitors.

RACES, THEATRE, &C.

Their Royal Highnesses visited the course on both the race-days at Tunbridge Wells. A capacious awning, surmounted with the Royal Arms, and decorated with flowering shrubs, had been constructed for their accommodation, and under this shelter from the intense heat of the sun, which shone out in full splendour, their Royal Highnesses and suite sat in their open carriages for nearly three hours each day. The space occupied by the tent was secured by ropes, to prevent the dense mass of people from pressing too close in their eagerness to obtain as near a view as possible of the Heiress Presumptive ;

and within this space the gentlemen of the committee took their station on both days, and continued their attendance during the whole stay of the Royal Visitors upon the course. The second day proved upon the whole the most attractive to spectators, as on that day the Duchess of Kent presented her splendid silver cup, of the value of seventy pounds, to the winner at the conclusion of the race by which it was decided, and a very interesting scene it afforded. The young Princess was much admired on this occasion ; she wore a white muslin pelisse lined with primrose coloured silk ; a white chip bonnet, ornamented with a small bouquet of roses ; a wreath of the same flowers encircling her forehead.

Their Royal Highnesses made use of the calm which succeeded to the bustle of the race-week, to enjoy the delights of polished society, and dinner-parties were now frequently given at Calverley House to the neighbouring nobility and gentry. The ease and affability which pervaded these social meetings was the theme of general admiration, and the Royal table was entirely free from formal ceremony, and presented an union of true and dignified politeness with the richest intellectual enjoyment, the conversation being restrained only by the limits of the strictest purity and decorum. The illustrious Party also dined with the Marquis Camden at Bagham Abbey ; spent a long day with the Earl and Countess of Sheffield, at Sheffield

Park; visited the ruins of Mayfield Place, on horseback, with a company of about thirty equestrians, partaking there of a cold collation, served in the open air, the novelty of which much pleased the Princess; and made various other excursions to view every thing worthy of notice in the neighbourhood; amongst them the favourite drive of Victoria's childhood was not forgotten, but the romantic scenery of Eridge Park and Castle was still honoured with many a Royal visit.

The Princess and her Mother being anxious, by their patronage and occasional participation, to encourage and promote all the rational amusements of the localities in which they made their temporary abode, went once also to the Theatre. Their gracious intention having been announced every part of the house was filled to excess long before the curtain drew up; and at half-past seven precisely, the expecting audience were gratified the entrance of the Royal Party, who were greeted both within and without the building with enthusiastic expressions of loyalty and love. The performances immediately commenced with the national anthem by the band, joined by the whole house. The pieces selected by their Highnesses for the evening's entertainment the play of "Kenilworth," and the farce "Post." The Princess and her M

mained until the close of the latter, when " God save the King " having been again called for and sung, their Royal Highnesses departed amidst the loudest huzzas ever heard within the walls of a little country Theatre.

The Princess was likewise taken to see the process of paper-making at Mr. Turner's manufactory at Chafford, and derived much profitable amusement from her inspection. On her departure from the manufactory, she was presented with a very fine specimen of the hop, by a gentleman, who requested that her Royal Highness would accept it as the produce of a Kentish hop garden.

Their Royal Highnesses attended the last show for the season of the Tunbridge Wells Horticultural Society. Having signified their intention of viewing the collection, arrangements were made by the committee for the admission of the Royal Party previously to the opening of the doors to the public. Their Royal Highnesses accordingly entered the rooms about half-past twelve o'clock, and inspected the various productions, particularly those of the cottagers, with which they were highly pleased. This beautiful exhibition beguiled the attention of the young Princess so entirely, that the time appointed for opening the doors arrived long before she was willing to depart ; with her accustomed consideration, however, she begged that her presence might not interfere with the general arrangements ; and she remained till the

increasing pressure of the crowd into the rooms rendering it almost impossible to examine the specimens minutely, their Royal Highnesses retired ; having expressed their thanks to the committee for the accommodation afforded them. The Royal dinner-table was decorated in the evening with a splendid bouquet of flowers presented by Lady Maria Meade.

A day having been appointed for the Tunbridge Wells troop of yeomanry to meet in the spacious field of D. J. Robertson, Esq., at Bishopsdown, for a trial of skill in horsemanship and various manly exercises, their Royal Highnesses again gladdened the gay scene with their welcome presence. They were received by Mr. and Mrs. Robertson at the door of their mansion, and conducted by them through the garden to the scene of action. The day was very fine, and the spot selected for the games beautiful in itself, and admirably adapted for the purpose. Their Royal Highnesses presented the victors with their respective prizes ; and the Princess gave on her own account a variety of tasteful articles to the successful competitors, such as china smelling-bottles for their ladies ; silk and kid gloves ; silk sashes, &c. &c. The meeting altogether afforded an exhibition of striking animation and interest.

RUSTIC ENTERTAINMENT.

Amongst the numerous excursions made by the young Princess during this residence at Tunbridge Wells, not one afforded her more real enjoyment than a visit paid to the Earl and Countess of Delaware, for the purpose of witnessing the annual dinner given by his lordship to the peasantry employed on his estates, and which on this occasion presented a scene of unusual interest. The table was spread under the rich canopy of Heaven, on the open space in front of the steward's house, at Fisher's Gate, which commands an extensive and beautiful view of the finely wooded grounds of Buckhurst Park, and the neighbouring country. At two o'clock, this table was bountifully covered with provisions, particularly with a plentiful supply of the old English fare, roast-beef and plum-pudding; and two hundred and nine hardy peasants, men and women, took their places, waiting the coming of their noble entertainer. In a few minutes his Lordship and the Countess of Delaware arrived near the spot, on horseback, accompanied by their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria, with their suite, together with his lordship's family, and a few select friends. The illustrious Party immediately dismounting, proceeded to the head of the table; and grace having been said

by the Reverend George Bale, the feast commenced.

In the course of the entertainment, his lordship taking a glass of ale, proposed the "health of the King," which was drank with three times three. Subsequently, going to the middle of the table, for the purpose of being better heard, he addressed the assembled guests, according to his custom on such occasions; acknowledging the bounty of the Giver of all Good in the plentiful harvest which had just been gathered in; returning his thanks to the labourers present for the cheerful manner in which they had done their part, and congratulating them that the return of good order throughout the country rendered it unnecessary for him to detain them by entering upon the painful subjects on which he had felt it his duty to warn them in the few preceding years. He paid an animated tribute of affectionate loyalty to the Royal Personages present, and concluded by proposing their health. The speech, in its various parts, drew forth expressions of the warmest applause, and the toast was drunk with exultation.

Their Royal Highnesses continued on the ground for some time longer; going round the table, and pausing at different points, whereby an opportunity was afforded to the gentry and clergy to be introduced, and to all the assemblage to gratify themselves with the sight of individuals in whom the country was so deeply interested. When

about to take their departure, their Royal Highnesses returned to the middle of the table ; a glass of ale was then handed to each of them by the noble earl, and his eldest son, Lord Cantalupe, and his lordship, again addressing his humble guests, informed them that their illustrious Visitors had given for a toast, " The Peasantry of England," and had commanded him to express their ardent wishes for their welfare, and to communicate to those present the high gratification which the happy scene they had that day witnessed had afforded them. Their Royal Highnesses then, bowing repeatedly to the peasantry, the Princess dispensing her sweetest smiles around, drank off their glass of ale amongst the grateful acclamations of the whole assembly. The weather proved auspicious for the glad occasion, and good order and good feeling prevailed throughout ; all parties, indeed, appeared to be abundantly gratified. It was the first scene of the kind which the Princess Victoria had ever witnessed, and is, perhaps, even now a pleasing remembrance to her amidst the splendours of a court, and the cares of government. Its interest was greatly increased by the presence of the numerous family of the noble host and hostess ; the three eldest sons, fine youths, just verging upon manhood, were engaged, with all the energy and animation belonging to their age, in doing honour to the Royal Guests at one moment, and in dispensing their father's

hospitality at the next ; the eldest daughter, Lady Elizabeth West, but a few months older than the Princess Victoria, was her chief companion during this brief visit ; and the four younger children, three boys and one little girl, stood around, their open countenances eloquently expressing the pleasant feelings excited by the happiness around them. They were much noticed by the Royal Visitors, particularly by the young Princess, who frequently addressed her observations upon the passing scene even to the youngest amongst them, and with engaging frankness kissed them all at parting. All who were present, whether as partakers of the feast, or as spectators, were charmed with the interesting appearance, the gracious manners, and the truly English sentiments of their future Sovereign, as well as with the amiable bearing of the excellent and illustrious Mother. As soon as the Royal Party had mounted, and began to retrace their homeward way, the whole company commenced a series of enthusiastic cheers, which they continued until the cavalcade, winding into the adjoining wood, was hidden from their sight.

The noble owners of Buckhurst Park received the reward of their beneficence in the pleasure and happiness they were the means of diffusing around them ;

“ They gathered bliss to see their fellows blest ; ”

and perhaps on no occasion, either before or since,

has this annual fête been productive of so much patriotic enjoyment, either to the rustic guests, or their distinguished entertainers.

VICTORIA NATIONAL SCHOOL.

The period at length arrived when the Princess Victoria was called upon to fulfil her promise of laying the first stone for a new school-house in Calverly Lane, which was to be named after its illustrious Founder ; and it was with the greatest pleasure that her Royal Highness, accompanied by her beloved Mother and suite, set out for the spot on which this labour of love was to be performed. The sun shone most favourably on the undertaking, and the assemblage of company of all classes attending was immense. A commodious stage was erected, capable of containing four hundred persons, which was filled by highly respectable spectators ; the space by the side and the whole road being occupied by carriages. The children of the boys' and girls' schools were stationed next to the ropes, which inclosed the space where the building was to be erected, and within which the Royal Party assembled. The ground on every side was surrounded by a dense mass, of whom many were of that class for whose benefit the school was intended. At twelve o'clock their Royal Highnesses, attended by the dean of Chester, preceptor to the Princess, Sir

John and Lady Conroy, the Baroness Lehzen, Lady Flora Hastings, and the Misses Conroy, appeared in Garden Lane, the eastern side of the intended building. On alighting from their carriages they were received with nine cheers, the band playing the National Anthem, and were conducted to the tent erected for the occasion, by the Committee of Management, the architect, (Decimus Burton, Esq.) and the Master of the Ceremonies. At the door of the tent they were met by the Ladies who undertook the arrangement of the fancy sale for obtaining funds for the building : and as soon as they had entered, the plans of the proposed School-house were exhibited and explained to their Royal Highnesses, who on viewing them, expressed their satisfaction in regard to the design, and the general economy which had been pursued. Their Royal Highnesses and suite were then conducted to the north-east quoin, where the building was intended to join the master's house, in the following order of procession :—

The Master of the Ceremonies ; the Architect, bearing the trowel ; the Committee ; the Clergy ; the Ladies Patronesses, escorting the august Visitors.

The party being arranged round the stone, the Rev. H. A. Woodgate read the Collect, " Prevent us, O Lord, in all our doings," &c., and a prayer suitable to the occasion. The ceremony of laying the stone then commenced by the Architect presenting the trowel in a crimson velvet sheath worked with

gold—the handle, which was of ivory—having the rose, thistle, and shamrock, the emblems of the three kingdoms, beautifully carved upon it—to her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria. The Princess, directed by the Architect, then spread some mortar on the lower stone, in a small cavity, in the centre of which was deposited a sealed bottle containing an account of the date and circumstances of the occasion. The suspended stone was then lowered upon the mortar; and her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent was presented with a plummet and a square, which were applied to the stone in due form, under the eye of the Architect; three knocks were given with a mallet to the stone, the work was completed; and Mr. Burton was kindly presented by their Royal Highnesses with the trowel, which was greatly admired for its beautiful workmanship. Gratifying as this sight had been, the most interesting part was yet to come; for, before their Royal Highnesses retired from the spot where they had laid the first stone of the new building, the Duchess of Kent read an address to the Committee, which she had written for the occasion; it was distinctly heard by all who stood near; but the many hundreds who were at too great a distance for any words to reach them, might well guess at the purport from the feeling and emphatic manner in which her Royal Highness delivered it; it was as follows:—

“GENTLEMEN,

“It affords me and the Princess very great pleasure to meet

you here to-day to carry into effect so useful and beneficial an object, so calculated to afford instruction to the children of this neighbourhood; making their parents also parties to it by the moral feeling they will entertain that they contribute to that education as far as their means go. Let us all join cordially in such undertakings: the real welfare of the country will be best promoted by the diffusion of religious feeling, intelligence, and comfort in the cottage, so as to unite the People of this Country by those bonds."

This address was listened to with satisfaction and delight, and at the conclusion of it her Royal Highness added, with a tone and expression singularly earnest and energetic, "I assure you these are the feelings and sentiments of my own heart, and of that of the Princess." Indeed, the interest and pleasure which the Princess Victoria evinced in the business of the day fully confirmed this assurance, and afforded a cheering omen to the labouring classes of the regard and watchful attention which the "poor man's weal" would ever excite in the breast of the future Queen. The Royal Party continued near the stone for a few minutes to see the workmen proceed with the building, and were then re-conducted, amidst the cheers of the multitude, the band at the same time striking up "Rule Britannia," to the tent, whence, after a few kind words to the Ladies around them, they were escorted by the Committee to their carriages; and thus closed a scene of which the pleasurable remembrance is probably not yet effaced from the minds of those who witnessed it.

CHURCHES CROWDED.

Although the record of those multiplied engagements which, whether of duty or pleasure, were alike dictated by the spirit of benevolence, and entered into with a zest satisfactorily proving the enjoyment derived from them, are compressed within a small compass in the pages of biography, they occupied a considerable time in the course of prosecution, and were distributed over the space of three full months, the period allotted to this residence at Tunbridge Wells ; and it should especially be borne in mind, though not continually repeated, that throughout the whole of this time, not one Sunday elapsed without witnessing this exemplary Mother and Child attending the worship of the Most High, either at the Chapel of Ease, or at the New Church belonging to the Wells ; their attendance in the morning was invariable, and frequently in the afternoon they were to be seen bending their footsteps towards the church with one or two attendants only ; but as this was uncertain, it was at the early service that the inhabitants and visitors thronged the church or chapel, whichever was expected to be on that morning honoured with the presence of Royalty, for the purpose of joining in the offices of religion with their beloved Princess and future Queen. This feeling is in itself natural

and laudable, when it can be separated from the mere indulgence of curiosity ; but, unfortunately, as there is no possibility of drawing a line, and admitting just as many as the place of worship will conveniently hold, it too frequently leads to scenes of noise and confusion, where all should be devotion and respectful silence. And this was sometimes the case at Tunbridge Wells ; the Chapel of Ease especially was frequently crowded to excess, and although every accommodation was afforded by the introduction of forms and chairs, yet great inconvenience was necessarily experienced, not only by those who were unavoidably obliged to stand throughout the service, but by that portion of the congregation whose peaceful and quiet performance of their religious duties, was intruded upon by those casual visitors. The Royal Ladies themselves felt the difficulty of their situation, but with steady firmness continued the course which, after much consideration, they had adopted as the most judicious ; and neither withdrew from the general gaze, by neglecting the duty of public worship, nor courted it by seeming to derive any gratification from the desertion of the neighbouring churches in order to the overflow of theirs. Their attention seemed always engrossed in the duties they were present to perform ; and although in proceeding to and from the church, they always returned, as far as amenity demanded, the salutations of the public, it was remarked that they did not appear to take

the same pleasure in the expression of popular attachment on these occasions, as they were accustomed to do when it did not interfere with higher duties.

REMOVAL TO ST. LEONARDS.

As the winter season approached, their Royal Highnesses determined on removing to St. Leonards, for the purpose of enjoying the sea air united to the advantage of its more sheltered situation ; accordingly, three houses were engaged on the Marina, for the accommodation of the Princesses and their suite, and every arrangement made that could contribute to their convenience. Before leaving Tunbridge Wells, the Duchess transmitted to the Master of the Ceremonies there, a copy of an engraving from a drawing by Hayter, of herself and her Daughter, accompanied by the following letter from Sir John Conroy.

“ Tunbridge Wells, 13th October, 1834.

“ Sir,

“ The Duchess of Kent commands me to deliver to you this Print of her Royal Highness and the Princess Victoria, to which they have affixed their signatures ; and the Duchess of Kent wishes you to receive it as a mark of their Royal Highnesses ap-

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probation of the manner in which you have performed your duties here as Master of Ceremonies.

(Signed)

“JOHN CONROY.”

“L. P. Madden, Esq.”

On Monday the 3rd of November, their Royal Highnesses removed from Calverley House to the Sussex Hotel, Tunbridge Wells, in order to give their household an opportunity of preceding them to St. Leonards, and being in readiness to receive them there on the following day. Their Royal Highnesses arrived at the Sussex as early as nine o'clock, and spent the greater part of the morning in their favourite walks upon the Common. In the afternoon they entertained a select party at dinner ; and in the evening the town was partially illuminated, the trees opposite the Hotel being tastefully hung with variegated lamps ; under those trees the local band was stationed for above three hours ; and several hundreds of the inhabitants assembled beneath the windows of the Hotel to testify their gratitude and attachment to the illustrious Visitors.

Precisely at ten o'clock the next morning, the Royal Party entered their carriages, amidst the tears and blessings of the multitude, and departed for St. Leonards, escorted by the Tunbridge Wells troop of Yeomanry. The journey thither might be aptly compared to a grand triumphal procession ;

every village, nay, almost every cottage, on the whole length of the road, exhibited some emblematical decoration expressive of their feeling towards the august Travellers. The universal manifestations of delight, of loyalty, of affection, and attachment, could not be surpassed ; it seemed, in fact, a gala day for all descriptions of persons—old and young, rich and poor, appearing to take equal pleasure in the passing scene. Their Royal Highnesses passed through Frant, Wadhurst, and Ticehurst ; at the entrance of the former village, they were met by the boys and girls of the National Schools, on whom the Duchess and the Princess looked with countenances expressive of heartfelt satisfaction, for those little ones were amongst the numerous objects of their beneficent care. It was indeed truly pleasing to behold such a number of children clothed in their best attire, and rapidly nodding their infantine heads in succession as the carriages passed them, in humble acknowledgment to their Royal Benefactors. Nearly the whole village seemed to be in motion to greet the youthful Heiress, who passed through a multiplicity of triumphal arches, amidst shouts of joyful gratitude.

At Watlington Green, about forty or fifty gentlemen and yeomen, principally tenants of Sir Godfrey Webster, Bart., with white wands, decorated with white satin ribands, were drawn up on each side of the road ; who, joining the Royal Party, formed their escort into the venerable town of Battel ; at the

entrance of which was erected a handsome triumphal arch, covered with evergreens of every description, the royal standard floating from its summit; a band of musicians was stationed amongst its foliage, playing the National Anthem and other patriotic airs, as their Royal Highnesses passed under it. The townspeople and a great number of the neighbouring villagers hailed them heartily *en passant*; and they were met at the entrance of the Abbey by Lady Webster, whom their Royal Highnesses honoured with their company to luncheon. After leaving Battel, the remainder of the road to Hastings was a continual succession of triumphal arches and local processions; whilst a boundless enthusiasm prevailed amongst all classes.

Arrived at Hastings, the Royal Party found it to be one grand *dépôt* of colours and flags; every house presenting some symbol of loyalty and affection. The morning, which was rather lowering, was succeeded at noon by one of the most delightful days of the season; and the sun shone forth in full splendour upon the brilliant inland scene and upon the broad expanse of ocean, whose scarcely ruffled waves displayed many a gay Steamer floating on the wind. The whole population was in motion; and never perhaps, were seen more joyous or happy countenances. Their Royal Highnesses were met by the Authorities of the town, and many hundred gentlemen on horseback; and were conducted in procession, by sound of trumpet and drum, to their resi-

dence at St. Leonards, where not less than twenty thousand persons were assembled to greet them ; and as the august Visitors approached the Marina, the crowd became so dense that it was not without some difficulty the cavalcade could make a passage through it ; still the most admirable order prevailed, and not an accident occurred to throw a shade over the happiness of the day. The Mayor handed their Royal Highnesses from their carriage, and they alighted amidst the most enthusiastic shouts of welcome. They were received at the door of Victoria House by James Burton, Esq., and a numerous body of gentlemen, who formed a line on each side, scarlet cloth being laid down for their Royal Highnesses to walk on ; a guard of the Preventive Service, with a Captain of the Royal Navy, and two Lieutenants, were drawn up in front of the house, and received the Princess with presented arms, the band playing " God save the King." Immediately after entering the house, the Duchess and Princess appeared for some minutes upon the balcony ; acknowledging with gracious courteousness the demonstrations of respect evinced by the crowd who pressed round the house to obtain a nearer view, continually curtsying to the enthusiastic multitude. The excellent health and spirits of the Princess Victoria were remarked upon with pleasure ; as was the graceful dignity of her manners ; whilst the simplicity of her dress excited the utmost surprise amongst the country people.

A fishing smack, gaily decorated with colours, was now moored off nearly opposite to Victoria House ; and six fishermen, dressed in the very picturesque costume, peculiar to that class in Hastings, with new sea boots, frock, and petticoats, and red worsted caps, landed, and, preceded by a band of music, marched to their Royal Highnesses' residence to present them, in a basket beautifully decorated with flowers, their ocean tribute of the finest fish, which was most graciously received, and paraded at once into the drawing room for their Royal Highnesses' inspection, to the great joy of the bearers. The Princess and her Mother were extremely pleased with the appearance of these industrious and weather-beaten veterans, and also much amused with the novelty of the scene ; they expressed their thanks in the kindest terms, for their handsome present, to the fishermen, who re-embarked highly delighted with their reception. Their Royal Highnesses afterwards returned to the balcony, accompanied by the Mayor, and remained there whilst the whole procession passed in review before them, amidst the most vehement cheering ; at the conclusion of this ceremony they withdrew, and the crowd peaceably dispersed until re-assembled by the attractions of the evening, for the entertainment of which a display of illuminations and fireworks had been prepared on a very grand scale ; but unfortunately a rough and tempestuous wind greatly marred the expected brilliancy of the scene.

On Wednesday, the Mayor, and a Deputation from the Corporation and Inhabitants, attended with a loyal address, which was courteously received ; and the answer of the Duchess was marked by a kindness of expression, and delivered with a sensibility of manner, which is still remembered with grateful pleasure by those who were fortunate enough to be present on the occasion. The Mayor was so much overpowered by his feelings as to be scarcely audible in reading his address, which caused the young Princess to observe that " although they had been received at other places with equal honours, they had never met with a more heartfelt welcome."

RESIDENCE AT ST. LEONARDS.

Their Royal Highnesses remained during the months of November, December, and January, at this pleasant winter retreat; their time being spent in much the same manner as at Tunbridge Wells. The weather during the early part of their visit was unfavourable for the enjoyment of the country, but the young Princess seldom passed a day without walking for some time on the parade, or beneath the colonnade: when their Royal Highnesses could venture farther, their favourite walk was along the beach towards Bexhill. In their frequent visits to

Hastings, they generally alighted from their carriage at the entrance of the Town, entered a variety of shops to make purchases, and promenaded for some time on the Parade. They also entertained dinner parties two or three times a week, upon the same affable and social footing as at Tunbridge Wells; and regularly attended the Church service, always walking to and fro, whenever the weather permitted.

But this interchange of greetings between the Princesses and the people was sadly interrupted by the unexpected death of the duke of Gloucester, which occurred on the 30th of November, after a fortnight's severe illness, which however was only in its latter stages considered dangerous. For nearly three weeks after this melancholy event, the Duchess of Kent and her Daughter did not appear in public, except at Church; and when the Parade was once again gladdened with their presence, the deep mourning in which both they and their household were habited threw a sympathetic gloom over the usually animated scene.

With her accustomed munificence the Duchess subscribed liberally to all the existing charities of Hastings and St. Leonards; which Towns also derived the advantages generally resulting from the presence of these amiable personages—the establishment of new Institutions for the benefit and advantage of the community. They set a fund on foot

by the advance of £30 for additional large schools, on the plan of the British and Foreign School Society, and gave £10 in aid of a subscription to establish a Life-boat off Hastings, the want of which had been fatally proved on several melancholy occasions. The Princess also announced her intention of taking the Society of St. Leonards' Archers under her special patronage, and of presenting them with two annual prizes, in addition to a banner. Previously to taking leave of their friends at St. Leonards, their Royal Highnesses gave a grand ball and supper to above two hundred residents and visitors, when, by the easy affability of their manners and conversation, they shed a fascinating charm over the enjoyment of the evening.

On the 29th of January, 1835, the Duchess and the Princess returned to their apartments at Kensington Palace, to the great joy of the neighbourhood, for the lengthened absence of the Royal party began to be seriously felt by the tradesmen, and many other individuals, whom their residence greatly benefitted: they, however, always guarded against any injury to the poor under their protection, during these temporary absences, by continuing to them with the same regularity the pensions respectively allotted to them, and by employing almoners to distribute their bounty amongst those who greatly needed it. It was remarked by all who saw the young Princess on her return to Kensington, how very much she had grown and improved during her

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residence at Tunbridge Wells and St. Leonards :— her countenance, though still marked with the ingenuousness of childhood, was assuming a tone of intelligence and command, which denoted her rapid advance towards maturity, whilst her small and delicate figure was acquiring the proportions of womanhood.

ASSEMBLIES AT KENSINGTON PALACE.

The Princess Victoria having now nearly completed her sixteenth year, the Duchess of Kent considered it judicious to introduce her more unreservedly into the circle of assembled nobility than had been done at any former period. Her Royal Highness had always been accustomed, during King William's reign, to attend the birthday drawing rooms; a particular presentation at court was therefore unnecessary; but her royal Mother during the present season extended her invitations, hitherto limited to a choice circle of friends, to all the Nobility and Gentry of distinction resident in Town; and rank, wealth, power, and diplomacy flocked in crowds, on the first permission, to Kensington Palace, to offer homage to the Royal Maid, the future mistress of three Kingdoms. It is the dispensation of a merciful Providence that when one star pales in the firmament, or sinks in the night of years, another should rise luminous and ascendant.

"Sure pledge of day that crowns the smiling morn,"

It is not therefore to be wondered at that when the *élite* of the English Court beheld the young and Royal Victoria, in the morning of her days, reared amid the domestic virtues by her excellent Mother, who had borne herself with a discretion above all praise, and surrounded with the social charities of life, they should, though bound to their good King by every tie of loyal duty, look with an eye of deepest interest towards the future, dwell with delight on the countless hopes connected with her name and reign, and fondly recal the glorious recollections to which the prospect of female Sovereignty gave rise. Nor were these hopes the less endearing because they had once already, during the existing generation, been crushed in their budding beauty; but when "the expectancy and rose of the fair state" appeared, the pride and ornament of the high-born throng, many were the earnest prayers put up to Heaven for her preservation, numberless the aspirations that whenever it should please God to call her to the rule of this mighty empire "Wise and holy Councils" might surround her, and that her Court might become the home of domestic virtue, of pure religion, of high honour, and of national respect and love.

These large assemblies, which partook of the nature of evening Drawing-rooms, were received by the Duchess and her Daughter in the state apart-

ments at Kensington Palace, surrounded by their Court and all the appurtenances of etiquette. The Visitors were ushered by pages up the grand staircase, and passing through the whole suite of drawing rooms, entered the great Saloon, where every individual was introduced to their Royal Highnesses in succession. After this ceremony had been gone through, the Princess and her Mother mixed indiscriminately amongst the brilliant throng, visiting the drawing rooms alternately, and entering into conversation with many of their distinguished guests. Refreshments of the choicest kind were handed to the Company at intervals throughout the evening, no regular supper being given. On one of these occasions their Majesties honoured their royal relatives with their presence, when a very excellent concert of English music was performed, entirely by native singers. The programme for this concert was wholly arranged by the Princess herself, who selected all the pieces.

LEWES RACES.

In the months of April their Royal Highnesses paid a visit to the Earl of Liverpool and his daughters, at Buxstead Park, Sussex, and whilst there were present at the East Sussex Hunt Races, which took place on the Lewes Race Course, and which, owing to the announced intention of the illustrious Visi-

tors, were more fully attended than any races ever before held in that County. A stand had been erected for their Royal Highnesses' accommodation, in which a large portion of the Nobility and Gentry of the County were assembled. The Duchess and Princess arrived on the ground, at a little before one o'clock, in a close carriage and four, preceded by out-riders, and followed by Lord Liverpool and the Ladies Jenkinson in another carriage, they were also surrounded by a large group of horsemen. On the approach of the Royal Party to the stand, they were hailed by the enthusiastic acclamations of the immense concourse: the carriage was immediately thrown open, and the amiable Mother and Child graciously returned these respectful salutations. The Royal Party remained in the Carriage until after the first heat of the first race, and then took their seats in the stand, where they were respectfully and joyfully received by the Company within the building. The day was remarkably fine, and from the number of persons present, certainly not less than ten thousand, the scene was most animating. Upon the conclusion of the first race their Royal Highnesses partook of refreshments, and then returned to their carriage; immediately upon which Mr. Ellman, the owner of the winning horse, was presented to them by C. Craven, Esq. the Master of the East Sussex Hunt, and received from the Princess Victoria the reward of his success. Her Royal Highness handed to him the silver bowl

addressing him in these words :—" Mr. Ellman, I have much pleasure in presenting to you this silver bowl ;" upon which Mr. Ellman replied—" I am much pleased by winning this bowl, but my delight is greatly enhanced by having the honour of receiving it from the hands of your Royal Highness." The royal *cortége* was now ready to leave the course, but before doing so the Princess, in answer to the shoutings of the people, who were hurrying from all parts of the ground to witness her departure and catch a glimpse of her person, stood up in the carriage for some minutes, and received with evident pleasure these marks of popular attachment. Her Royal Highness having resumed her seat, the party finally left the ground amidst the waving of hats and handkerchiefs, and accompanied as before by a large party of gentlemen on horseback. The young Princess, in the enjoyment of perfect health, looked most sweetly, and excited the highest admiration. Her beautiful countenance beamed with animation and kindness, and her fascinating demeanour won every heart. Her Royal Highness wore a pink silk bonnet and white veil, her light hair simply divided over the forehead without any curls, and it was the general remark that this mode of dressing her hair blended admirably with the fine contour of her features ; her person was entirely enveloped in a rich cashmere shawl.

LINES

*Addressed to Her Royal Highness the Princess Alexandrina Victoria,
on the Anniversary of her birthday, 24th May, 1835.*

BY MRS. L. MILES.

Oh! thou for whom the rosy hours are bringing,
Their earliest tribute on this happy day,
Around whose path the sweetest flowers are springing,
Accept a Minstrel's gift—a Minstrel lay.

I dare not wish thee joy, unmixed with sadness—
'Twere vain to wish thee bliss unknown to pain;
But oh! may all thy sorrows end in gladness,
And all thy pleasures pure and bright remain.

May she who cherishes with fond devotion,
Thy dawn of promise—may she live to see,
Her young Aurora rising o'er the ocean,
A light and glory to the brave and free.

Though passing clouds oft shade fair hope's creation,
And thorns are with the brightest roses strown,
May'st thou reign o'er the true hearts of a Nation,
And find in every British breast a throne.

CONFIRMATION.

On the 30th of July 1835, the young Princess having lately completed her 16th year, the ceremony of her confirmation was performed at the

Chapel Royal, St. James's Palace, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by the Bishop of London, and in the presence of their Majesties and several members of the Royal Family.

After the performance of the church service for the day, into the spirit of which the Princess Victoria appeared to enter with even more than her usual fervour, the chapel was cleared, no part of the congregation being permitted to remain, except such of the Nobility as had seats appropriated to them; and the Royal Party, with their numerous attendants, descended from their closet, and placed themselves in a semicircle round the Altar, the suite being accommodated in the nearest pews. The King led his Niece to the Altar, before which she knelt, his Majesty standing at her left hand and the Duchess of Kent at her right. It was a most interesting and affecting scene; the service was performed with the utmost solemnity, and the dear Child went through it with firmness, although her pallid countenance and quivering lip denoted her inward agitation. But when, at its conclusion, the Archbishop proceeded to address her in a beautiful, pathetic, and parental exhortation, upon the sacred engagements she had now voluntarily assumed, the awful responsibility her exalted station imposed upon her, the propriety of arming herself for that struggle which would undoubtedly arise between the allurements of the world and the dictates of religion and justice, and,

above all, upon the absolute necessity of her looking up to the King of Kings for council and support in all the trials that awaited her, her composure gradually gave way ; in a short time she was drowned in tears, and at length, unable to subdue the violence of her emotion, she laid her head upon her Mother's shoulder, and sobbed aloud. The Duchess of Kent was scarcely less affected ; the Queen and all the Ladies present wept frequently ; and even the King himself was observed occasionally to shed tears. When the Archbishop had concluded his address, and the Princess had in some measure recovered her self-possession, his Majesty, having affectionately kissed her, led her to the Queen, who did the same, as well as all her Aunts and Uncles present. During the confirmation, her bonnet had been taken off, but her pretty simple cap remained ; she also wore a beautiful lace dress over white satin.

On the following Sunday, their Royal Highnesses attended Divine Service at the Chapel Royal, in Kensington Palace, when an impressive and appropriate sermon was preached by the Archbishop ; after which the young Princess, accompanied with her Mother, received the holy sacrament, for the first time, from the hands of his Grace, and of the Dean of Chester, her preceptor.

JOURNEY TO YORK.

Immediately after the Princess's confirmation, her Royal Highness, with her illustrious Mother, and their usual suite, left Kensington Palace for a short residence at Tunbridge Wells, where they were received with the same hearty demonstrations of regard which had welcomed them the preceding year. On the present occasion, they occupied Boyne House, Mount Ephraim; and for one month, entered into all the amusements of the place with their accustomed spirit, taking even more than usual concern in the welfare of the local inhabitants, as though desirous to make amends for the brevity of their visit by a proportionate activity in forwarding the interests and advantage of the town. Before quitting the Wells, they gave a ball to above two hundred of the principal inhabitants and visitors, at which the Princess Victoria danced in every quadrille, and added much to the gaiety of the scene by the easy affability of her manners.

Their Royal Highnesses returned to Kensington on Tuesday the 1st of September, and quitted it on the following Thursday for Bishopsthorpe, the palace of the Archbishop of York, with whom they proposed to stay the week of the Musical Festival in York Minster, which they had long promised to attend, and which was the first that had taken place there since the extensive repairs that magni-

ificent edifice had undergone, in consequence of the calamitous fire which destroyed so large a portion of the interior, a few years before. This journey was performed in comparative privacy, for their Royal Highnesses had no time to spare, passing rapidly through the country, and sleeping but two nights on the road. Little notice was therefore generally given of their approach ; but where this was inevitably made known by the necessity of stopping to rest, or to change horses, the wish of the august Travellers to avoid delay was most usually respected ; for the English are a reasonable people, and they were well aware of the willingness of both Mother and Daughter to gratify their loyal desires of personal acquaintance, whenever they could do so without considerable inconvenience : as soon therefore as it became known from town to town, that this indulgence could not now be granted, the inhabitants, with one accord, dutifully preferred to waive their own curiosity, rather than discompose any of the plans already laid down for the royal progress.

The evening of the first day brought their Royal Highnesses to WANDSFORD, in Northamptonshire, where they dined and slept at the Haycock Inn ; and on leaving the town, at an early hour the next morning, they were warmly greeted by a large assemblage of persons collected to see them pass ; which mark of respect was repeated at every village which had been apprized of their expected arrival, and was

invariably acknowledged by pleasant smiles and graceful bows.

On passing through STAMFORD, at about ten o'clock, the bells of St. Martin's, St. Mary's, and All Saints, struck up a merry peal ; and the streets, from the top of St. Martin's to the end of Scotsgate, were crowded with persons anxious to see the future Queen of England and her amiable Mother ; to the latter of whom all owed a deep debt of gratitude for the manner in which she was educating and training the nation's hope.

Their Royal Highnesses arrived at GRANTHAM, in excellent health and spirits, at half-past twelve o'clock, attended by Lady Flora Hastings, Lady Catharine Jenkinson, the Baroness Lehzen, Sir John Conroy, and a numerous suite, occupying four carriages. They were welcomed to the town by the ringing of bells, and by the loud and cordial acclamations of a very numerous and highly respectable multitude, who had assembled along the whole line of road leading to the George Hotel, where they changed horses. On the departure of the illustrious personages, these royal salutations were repeated with increased enthusiasm, and every one seemed delighted with the unaffected and gracious manner in which they were returned.

At NEWARK the royal *cortége* was received in the Market-place with military honours, by the Staff of the Nottinghamshire Militia, commanded by Captain Bath, the band playing - " God save the

King ;" they were also loudly cheered by a vast number of the inhabitants who had congregated to welcome their arrival.

About half-past three o'clock the travelling equipages drew up at SCARTHING-MOOR INN, where a number of ladies and gentlemen, resident in the vicinity, were in anxious waiting to obtain a sight of their future Queen. Her Royal Highness and her Mother had not intended to alight at this place, but on being informed by Sir John Conroy that their remaining in the carriage would cause great disappointment amongst this highly respectable assemblage, their Royal Highnesses unhesitatingly complied with the wishes of the public, and, descending from their chariot, curtsied with winning affability to all around. The Royal Party then accompanied Mrs. Sharp, the landlady, over the house ; warmly admiring the situation on which it stood, as well as the beauty of the surrounding country ; at the same time expressing their regret that this lovely spot had not been selected as their resting-place for the night. After remaining a quarter of an hour, and delighting every body by their kind condescension, the illustrious Ladies re-entered their carriage, and were driven off towards Retford ; not, however, without expressing their admiration of the fourteen superb greys with which Mr. Sharp had horsed the royal carriages, and which, with the handsome and uniform dresses of the post-boys, formed, the

young Princess observed, the most beautiful set-out she had hitherto seen upon the road."

At **RETFORD**, where their Royal Highnesses were received with every demonstration of loyalty and respect, they kindly desired the postillions to drive slowly, in order to please the anxious gazers ; and at **BARNBY-MOOR**, where they remained for the night, the Princess, in the most obliging manner, presented herself at the window ; and so great was her anxiety to gratify the spectators, that, during dinner, and indeed during the whole evening, she would not allow a single blind to be drawn down in the room where she sat. The public profited by these indulgences with feelings of grateful pleasure ; and many were the exclamations that—"deposited in such hands, royalty could not but be popular;" and that "these amiable ladies shed a grace upon their exalted station, and not it upon them."

On Saturday their Royal Highnesses were again moving early, and reached **DONCASTER** about ten o'clock in the morning. At the top of Hull Gate, the *cortége* was met by a detachment of Yeomanry Cavalry, and escorted by them into the town ; the royal carriages proceeding at a slow pace, through a continued line of respectable spectators, who welcomed their arrival with hearty and affectionate greetings. All the balconies, as well as every window from which a view of the road could be obtained, were crowded with well-dressed ladies ; flags waved from every house, and a band stationed

at the Mansion-house, struck up the National Anthem, on the approach of the Royal Party, who, having changed horses at the Old Angel Inn, immediately pursued their route towards York.

RECEPTION AT BISHOPSTHORPE.

In proceeding to Bishopsthorpe, their Royal Highnesses did not enter the City of York, but turned off about three miles short of it, at the lane leading from the Tadcaster road, to the Archbishop's palace; which point they reached about half-past one o'clock, a full hour earlier than they were expected, and were there met by Sir John Johnstone's troop of Yorkshire Hussar Yeomanry ; also by a large congregation of spectators, but nothing like the numbers that would have been assembled at the time appointed for their Royal Highnesses' arrival. The escort having formed, the troop dividing, and riding in front and rear of the royal equipage, the party advanced at a rapid rate towards Bishopsthorpe. On their arrival at the palace, they were again warmly greeted by the multitude ; and having alighted, they were met at the grand entrance by the Archbishop and his family, who conducted them up the steps, which were covered with crimson cloth ; the escort formed meanwhile in front of the palace, and their Royal Highnesses, turning round

on the top of the steps, curtsied both to the military and to the surrounding throng ; this was the signal for the most loyal and enthusiastic cheering, with which the air resounded for a considerable time.

Their Royal Highnesses were immediately waited upon by the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs, as well as by a deputation from the Citizens, to enquire when they would be pleased to receive the addresses of the Corporation and Inhabitants of York ; the Duchess of Kent appointed the following Monday, at eleven o'clock, for this ceremonial. The august Visitors were now introduced to a select party who had been invited by the Archbishop to meet them during their brief sojourn at the palace : amongst them were several friends ; but the one whom the youthful Princess hastened with the light quick step of true affection to embrace, was her noble and beloved Governess, who had preceded her thither. The guests at present assembled included, besides the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland, and the Royal Suite, the Earl and Countess Cawdor, Lord Emlyn, the Earl of Liverpool, and the Ladies Jenkinson, Lord Morpeth, Sir John and Lady Johnstone, and several other members of his Grace's numerous family. In addition to this party the dinner table was joined by the Lord Mayor of York, and a small company especially invited for the occasion. On retiring for the night, the Princess Victoria uttered an exclamation of surprise and

pleasure at the magnificence with which the sleeping apartment was fitted up ; the state beds in particular attracted her attention, from their extraordinary elegance and beauty ; the hangings of that prepared for the Princess, were of white velvet with satin trimmings ; those belonging to the Duchess of Kent's varied only in their colour, which was blue ; the pillows and bolsters were of the finest materials, fringed with beautiful Valenciennes lace ; and every other article in this splendid room corresponded in costly decoration. Indeed the venerable Prelate displayed the highest degree, both of taste and liberality, in his extensive preparations to do honour to the youthful Hope of England.

On Sunday, the Minster was crowded to excess, it having been supposed that their Royal Highnesses would be present ; and, under the same expectation, the evening service was equally thronged : on both occasions the congregation was disappointed, as the Royal Party attended Divine Service in the handsome though rural Chapel of Bishopsthorpe. This village was of course the centre of much attraction ; and innumerable parties, both in carriages and on foot, paid a visit hitherward in the forenoon, and joined the illustrious Visitors in their attendance at the Chapel. By a most judicious arrangement the whole of the Parishioners were admitted first, the doors were then thrown open, and Royalty beheld in its presence the thousands who had poured from York and its Vicinity. The

prayers were read by the Rev. Mr. Brown, the Curate; and a most excellent sermon preached by the Rev. William Vernon Harcourt; the service being closed by the Archbishop pronouncing the benediction. Their Royal Highnesses afterwards walked in the gardens of the Palace: throughout the day the Village was thronged with company; and whenever the Royal Visitors appeared, the public were equally delighted with the urbanity of the Heiress Presumptive, and with the pleasing manner in which the Duchess of Kent introduced her interesting Daughter to the notice of her future Subjects. Prayers were again read at the Palace Chapel in the afternoon, in the presence of the Duchess and the Princess; and at this service, as at that of the morning, there was a full attendance.

YORK ADDRESSES.

On Monday, morning their Royal Highnesses received at Bishopsthorpe, according to appointment, the Mayor and the Corporation, with also a deputation from the inhabitants of York, to present their respective addresses. On their arrival, the Body Corporate were ushered into his Grace's superb dining room, remarkable for its stained glass windows, and for being hung round with very fine portraits of the several Archbishops, who have pre-

ceded the present venerable Prelate. Having formed themselves into a semicircle, they waited the pleasure of the Royal Party, and shortly afterwards the Duchess of Kent entered the apartment, leaning on the arm of the Archbishop, followed by her youthful Daughter, with Miss Georgiana Harcourt, and also by her suite and the family of the Archbishop. Their Royal Highnesses stationed themselves immediately in front of two elegant antique chairs which had been prepared for them, the Princess Victoria standing on the right of her Mother and the Archbishop on the left. Sir John Conroy was placed behind his Royal Mistress, and the Duchess of Northumberland, Lady Flora Hastings, the Baroness Lehzen, Lady Catherine Jenkinson, and Lady Vanden Bempde Johnstone, with many other Visitors, both male and female, were grouped around, whilst several of the Archbishop's Grandchildren completed a scene replete with pleasurable interest. The Lord Mayor now stepped forward, and bowing to the Duchess of Kent, addressed her in nearly the following words :—

“ May it please your Royal Highness,

“ I have the distinguished honour, on behalf of myself, the Recorder, and the other Members of the Corporation of York, to express to your Royal Highness our anxious wish to be permitted to approach your Royal Highness with an address of congratulation on the present happy occasion; and to beg your Royal Highness will be pleased graciously to receive this hum-

ble expression of our sincere and unalterable attachment to yourself and your Royal Daughter."

C. H. Elsley, Esq. the Recorder, then read the following address :—

" May it please your Royal Highness,

"We, the Lord Mayor, Alderman, Sheriffs, and Common Councilmen of the City of York, humbly beg leave to approach your Royal Highness, and to express our deep sense of the high honour shown to us, and to our fellow citizens, by the visit of your Royal Highness, and your illustrious Daughter, to our ancient City.

"We are well aware that such condescension has excited the greatest desire in all classes of persons in this County, to be present at our approaching festival, that they may testify their dutiful respect for your Royal Highness, and mark their admiration of the many virtues which exalt and adorn your Royal Highness's character. We feel the greatest pride and satisfaction, that the Yorkshire Musical Festival will be graced by the presence, and supported by the kind patronage, of your Royal Highness, not only on account of the flattering distinction which such a circumstance confers upon our City; but also on account of the aid the cause of charity will receive therefrom; a cause which your Royal Highness is always amongst the foremost to promote.

"We, therefore, humbly beseech your Royal Highness to accept our sincerest wishes for the welfare of your Royal Highness and the Princess Victoria; together with the assurance, that the Members of this Corporation will never be found wanting in loyalty and attachment to that illustrious House, of which your Royal Highness is so distinguished a Member."

The Recorder, having concluded, respectfully retired a few paces, and the Duchess of Kent imme-

diately read the following answer, in a firm, collected, and most pleasing manner :—

“My Lord Mayor and Gentlemen,

“I assure you that the Princess and myself, feel deeply the attention that leads you here, to convey to us such gratifying sentiments from the corporation of the ancient City of York. It is very agreeable to us to think that we are indebted for these kind feelings to the loyal attachment you bear to the King.

“It is now some years since I had afforded our most Reverend Host a hope that we might be his guests, to attend the Yorkshire musical festival, conceiving it a fit occasion to visit this part of the kingdom, and, in doing so, to aid the cause of charity.

“I beg you to be assured that we shall always preserve a grateful and lively sense of the cordial welcome you have given us.”

When the Duchess had concluded, the Lord Mayor and other Members of the Corporation were severally introduced to both their Royal Highnesses, who noticed each with a kindness and affability which won all hearts. The Corporation having thus discharged their pleasing duty, remained in the Vestibule, whilst the Lord Mayor returned to join a deputation from the Citizens at large, and to present another address which had been adopted at a general meeting. On this second occasion his Lordship expressed himself nearly as follows :—

“Your Royal Highness having graciously signified your pleasure to receive the congratulations of the Citizens of York, on the occasion of your visiting our festival, I, as their chief Magistrate, and the Gentlemen by whom I am accompanied, are de-

puted by our fellow Citizens, to thank your Royal Highness for your condescension, and to convey to your Royal Highness the sentiments of loyalty and affection, which pervade the hearts of the Citizens of York, towards your Royal Highness and the Princess, your Daughter."

The following address was then read :—

"To Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.

"May it please your Royal Highness,

"The Inhabitants of the City of York, proud of the high honour which the presence of your Royal Highness, and that of the Princess Victoria, confers upon our ancient City, beg leave to approach your Royal Highness with sentiments of profound respect and cordial affection. They eagerly avail themselves of the happy opportunity of expressing to your Royal Highness, and the Heiress Presumptive to the British Throne, their sentiments of devoted attachment to your illustrious House, whose benign sway has conferred so many blessings upon these realms.

"They trust your Royal Highness will deign to accept of their congratulations upon your visit to a City, once the abode of royalty, and which has been honoured by the presence of many of your august family; and that your Royal Highnesses may long live to adorn that high and important station in which Providence has placed you, is the earnest prayer of the inhabitants of York, as they doubt not it is of those of the whole British Empire."

Their Royal Highnesses both listened with marked attention to this address, to which the Duchess of Kent promptly replied :—

"GENTLEMEN,

"The assurance you convey to the Princess and myself of the devoted attachment of the Inhabitants of the City of York, is

most gratifying to us, and corresponds with the feeling always shown to our Sovereign, by his loyal subjects in York. Your expressions to us personally, of respect and cordial affection, we shall gratefully cherish, 'as we know how to appreciate such feelings. It is a source of great pleasure to us, to be able to visit York, and to mix freely' with all classes on this occasion, which is one of so much interest in your City and County.

FIRST VISIT TO YORK.

As soon as the Lord Mayor and Deputations had left the Palace, their Royal Highnesses prepared to make their public entry into the City of York, where an immense assemblage of the Maiden Queen's future Subjects awaited her arrival with impatience, and welcomed her with shouts of gladness; whilst the graciousness and affability with which their numerous greetings were acknowledged increased the enthusiasm of the Populace. About half-past one o'clock, the Royal Party entered the City at Micklegate Bar, in three Carriages, the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria, accompanied by the Archbishop and Miss Georgiana Harcourt, occupying an open one, which drew up at the Mansion House; and his Grace, having alighted, offered his arm to the young Princess, who paused a few moments to notice the assembled multitude ere she entered the House. At the door of the Mansion House, their Royal Highnesses were received by the Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, by whom they were conducted to the State Room;

and partook of refreshment with a select party already assembled there. After gratifying the company with their presence and conversation for more than an hour, they proceeded to view the Museum and grounds of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society. They were met at the Lodge by the Officers of the Society, and escorted through the beautiful grounds of the Museum, amidst the long ranks of the Members and their Friends, amounting to two thousand persons. The day was beautifully fine, and as the Royal Party moved along among the monuments of Roman power and Monastic splendour, the cheers of the gratified multitude lent a joyful exhilaration to the scene.

Arrived at the Museum, the approach to which was ornamented with choice flowers, their Royal Highnesses and suite were conducted by the Archbishop and his family, with the greatest comfort and quiet, through the spacious apartments which are devoted to the preservation and interpretation of the monuments of ancient art, and the records of primeval and existing nature. The perfect arrangement of the objects, which is gradually extended to every department of the collections, allowed the exhibition and description of some of the unique and interesting specimens in geology, zoology, and mineralogy ; secretaries and curators of the several departments being in continual attendance. The Library was next entered, and the works of different authors and artists, relating to the city and

county, were inspected by their Royal Highnesses, particularly the excellent history and admired print of St. Mary's Abbey. Professor Philips, one of the secretaries, then addressed her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, to the following effect :

"I am directed to offer to your Royal Highnesses, in the name of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society, copies of a work containing the history of St. Mary's Abbey, a drawing of the same, and certain impressions of ancient seals ; and if your Royal Highnesses will pardon the presumption, I am anxious to be allowed to add two works which relate to the geology of Yorkshire, and which, but for the fostering care of this institution, would never have been published."

The Duchess and her Daughter graciously accepted the proffered gift, and declared themselves Patronesses of the "Yorkshire Philosophical Society," in the future prosperity of which they expressed a warm interest ; the Princess Victoria adding that she would certainly contribute to the completion of the interesting collections which had been shown her.

Their Royal Highnesses were next conducted to the Council-room, where, with other antiquarian reliques, a coin of the British Queen Boadicea was inspected. They then re-passed through the vestibule, and the spacious theatre of the Museum, (both now filled with members and their families,) to the room which is occupied by monuments of Roman and old English sculpture ; and, again as-

cending through the theatre, amidst the irrepressible applauses won by their condescension from the gratified spectators, proceeded on foot to survey the magnificent ruins of St. Mary's Abbey, which, interesting to all the world, are peculiarly affecting to those whose high station associates them with the history of their country, and naturally renders them peculiarly susceptible of those refined and elevated emotions which such exhibitions are calculated to inspire.

After leaving the Museum Gardens, the Royal Party, at about four o'clock, visited the Minster, where they heard one or two of the chorusses in the act of rehearsal; and having viewed the interior of the choir, they drove off for Castle Howard, the residence of the Earl of Carlisle, the enthusiastic huzzas of the thousands who thronged the Minster yard and pleasure grounds adjoining hailing their departure.

THE MUSICAL FESTIVAL.

The magnificent preparations for this long anticipated festival being at length completed, in that august temple, whose lofty roof was so soon to reverberate with the high ascriptions of praise, which make the nearest approach our limited conceptions will admit to those sounds of "harpers harping with their harps," to "the mighty thunderings,"

and "the noise of many waters," which form the sublime descriptions under which the "celestial harmonies" are conveyed to terrestrial ears, the doors of the Cathedral were thrown open precisely at half-past ten o'clock in the morning of Tuesday, the 8th of September; and though there was a considerable assemblage of persons anxious for admission, yet, after a very slight pressure, owing to the judicious erections at the different places of entrance, the ingress was perfectly easy. The ample galleries and the spacious centre rapidly filled; the latter was entirely occupied, but the side galleries would have held a hundred or two more: speaking in round numbers it would appear that there were upwards of five thousand persons present. At a few minutes before twelve o'clock, the distant cheering of the populace, which gradually neared until it broke forth in one loud shout of acclaim, announced the arrival of the Royal Party at the grand western entrance. The whole of the audience at once rose; and shortly afterwards the Duchess of Kent entered the Cathedral, leaning on the arm of the Dean of York, and was ushered to the pew erected for the royal party, in front of the Patrons' gallery: she was immediately followed by her lovely Daughter, led in by the venerable Archbishop: and no sooner was the youthful Princess visible from the other parts of the Minster, than the enthusiasm of the audience, no longer to be withheld, even by the sanctity of the

place, burst forth in a simultaneous shout of applause, accompanied by loud clapping of hands. The Dean, with great propriety, strove to suppress this ill-timed ebullition of feeling ; but it was many minutes before his efforts, united to the reproving looks of the graver portion of the assemblage, succeeded in restoring silence and decorum within the sacred edifice. The *coup d'œil* at this moment was brilliant in the extreme ; and realized to the imagination some of those graphic descriptions which the great Northern Magician has scattered over his delightful volumes. Their Royal Highnesses, without regard to the passing scene, the tumult of which it was their object to repress, took their seats, immediately upon their entrance, in two large crimson velvet chairs, which had been prepared for them ; the Duchess seated herself first, the Princess Victoria being placed on her right hand ; the Archbishop sat on the Duchess's left, and Miss Georgiana Harcourt on the right of the Princess ; immediately behind them were seated the ladies and gentlemen of the suite ; and on the same line, to the right and left, were the Duchess of Northumberland, Lord Harewood and family, Lord Morpeth with three Ladies Howard, and several others of the Nobility, forming portions of the royal party. It was remarked that the Duchess and her interesting Child were more plainly dressed than any of the personages by whom they were surrounded ; they wore black silk dresses (being in mourning for a sister of the Duchess) with lace tippets or collars, white silk bonnets, white

veils, and grey gloves. The Duchess had a small ostrich feather in her bonnet, the Princess's was without ornament. As soon as the bustle of their Royal Highnesses' reception had a little subsided, the signal was given, and the performances commenced. Not only on account of the illustrious personages present, but also because it was the anniversary of the King's coronation, the selection was very judiciously made to open with Handel's grand coronation anthem : but so intent were the assembly on the presence of royalty, that all eyes were turned to the west, and the progress of the symphony was scarcely remarked, till the stroke of the drums, instantaneously followed by the astounding crash of instruments and voices, with the words "Zadock the Priest," caused the auditory to turn to the orchestra, to which the magnificent effect of this fine composition held their attention undivided.

This spirit-stirring chorus had scarcely ceased to reverberate through the vast recesses of the stupendous pile, before the plaintive murmurings of *chaos*, in the introduction to Haydn's "Creation," called to other and more sublime contemplations. The stillness of utter desolation making its first movement towards order—the moaning of the winds—the gentle glimmering towards that light which was soon to break forth, shown in the soft streaming of the flute—then the commotion of the elements, the rolling of the thunder, and all the sublime conceptions concentrated in this immortal production, were heard with a degree of perfection

almost unequalled, certainly never surpassed. The recitative, "In the beginning," was given by Mr. Phillips, in a style of rich magnificence which embodied the very spirit of the subject. The unaccompanied chorus, "And the Spirit of God," led sweetly on to the overpowering effect given by the orchestra to the word "Light," which came upon the audience with a force quite electric. Mr. Bennet's recitative, "And God saw the light," was also very finely executed ; as was also the air, "Now vanish," with its chorus. Thus the performance proceeded through the first and second parts of the "Creation." The magnificent chorus, "The heavens are telling," was performed with the full effect that grand piece of harmony is capable of eliciting. At the termination of the chorus, "Achieved is the glorious work," the royal party retired to the Deanery to partake of refreshment ; and after an interval of twenty minutes, the second part of the concert, consisting of selections from the works of Handel, Beethoven, Mozart, and Pergolesi, was commenced ; amongst the most striking of the pieces were, Luther's Hymn, sung by Mr. Braham, with Mr. Harper's fine trumpet accompaniment ; "Lord remember David," tastefully sung, with the Latin words by Signor Rubini ; and Haydn's German Hymn, adapted to English words, which displayed the grandeur of a simple melody when performed by such a band and with such a chorus. The selection

concluded with that sublime solo and chorus, "As from the power of sacred lays," with the grand finale of "The dead shall live." The Duchess and the Princess remained throughout the whole, and expressed the utmost delight at all they had seen and heard.

The performance of the second day, was Handel's unrivalled Oratorio, the "Messiah:" the Royal Party arrived punctually as before, again awaited the close of the proceedings, and appeared, if possible, still more highly gratified than on the preceding day.

The following lines were addressed to the Princess Victoria, by a spectator in the Minster on this occasion, who was particularly struck by the expression of innocent and gentle happiness, which her Royal Highness's countenance portrayed.

TO THE PRINCESS VICTORIA.

*On seeing her at York Cathedral during the performance of the
Messiah.*

Sweet Princess! as I gaze upon thee *now*,
In the bright sunshine of thy youthful grace,
And in thy soft blue eye, and tranquil brow,
Would seek resemblance to thy lofty race;
I think how soon the whelming cares of state,
May crush thy free young spirit with their weight;
And change the guileless beauty of thy face,
Nor leave of that sweet, happy smile, one trace;—

Then earnestly I pray that thou may'st be
Though all thy life beloved, good, and great ;
And when from thy calm home by Heaven's decree,
Thou'rt called to rule a mighty Empire's fate,
May'st thou throughout thyreign be just and wise,
And win at last a crown immortal in the skies.

M. A.

WAKEFIELD, SEPT. 9th, 1835.

The young Princess and her august Parent, who had travelled so many miles to give their efficient patronage to this festival occasion, determined not to do the business they came upon by halves ; and accordingly they attended, not only all the morning meetings in the Cathedral, but a concert at the Assembly-rooms on one evening, and a fancy ball, the concluding gala of the festival, on another. On the latter occasion about two thousand persons were present, the dancing rooms being of course excessively crowded. About half-past nine o'clock the Duchess and the Princess arrived ; and were conducted by four of the stewards, Col. Wallace, Col. Caradoc, W. Hatfield, Esq., and Sir John Lister Kaye, Bart., to the royal box in the Concert room. On the entrance of the Royal Party, the band struck up " God save the King," and the company received them with hearty cheers. At twelve they left their box, and promenaded the rooms, the Duchess leaning on the arm of Colonel Wallace, and the young Princess on that of the

Hon. John Charles Dundas. Dancing was suspended during their walk, the company forming in lines to allow their Royal Highnesses ample space to observe the beauties of the fine Egyptian Hall ; the band meanwhile played the National Anthem, and the lofty roof resounded with the reiterated cheers of all present, who seemed to exult in the unrestrained permission to make their welcome to their future Queen, as loud as it was loyal. As they passed along, the Duchess and the Princess most affably returned these heartfelt greetings, conversing cheerfully with all those who had been honoured with an introduction : the Princess seemed highly amused and interested during the whole of the evening. After promenading for more than half an hour their Royal Highnesses partook of refreshment, and shortly afterwards withdrew, to the great regret of the company, who however consoled themselves for the absence of Royalty, by resuming the merry dance, which was kept up till a late hour with unabated spirit.

With this ball the amusements of the musical festival closed ; and the Royal Party prepared for their immediate departure from Bishopsthorpe, which had been rendered so interesting during this memorable week by their joy-inspiring presence.

Whilst at the palace, the Princess Victoria was presented with a dress, or rather the material for a dress, which had been sent for the purpose from the manufactory of Messrs. Hargreaves and Co. of

Kirkstall, near Leeds. It was a claret coloured cashmere, embroidered in flowers of green, white, and maize, and of so exquisitely beautiful a fabric, as to rival the finest French merino ever produced. Her Royal Highness most graciously accepted this offering of respect, and, as well as the Duchess of Kent and all the royal party, expressed the highest admiration at the superb specimen it presented of the perfection of British manufacture.

Before leaving Bishopsthorpe, their Royal Highnesses transmitted to the Treasurers of the Musical Festival, through Sir John Conroy, the munificent subscription of £100, towards the funds of the festival. They also presented the Yorkshire Philosophical Society with a donation of books to the value of £50, to be selected by the committee.

ODE

TO HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCESS VICTORIA,

ON HER VISIT TO YORK.

Daughter of England ! Young and hopeful shoot
Of that time-honoured and heroic stem,
Whose branches ever put forth golden fruit !
Inheritress of England's diadem !
For thee the past has only store
Of pleasant thoughts : of birds and flowers,
Of woodland, and the sparkling shore,
Of downy rest and sportive hours ;

Of Hope and Friendship dress'd in robes of green,
Of the best mother's care by night and day ;
And holy thoughts of one—in fancy seen,
Thine own heroic Sire—so early ta'en away.

For thee the present teems with passing joys—
Enjoy them, for the hours of joy are fleet ;
And stealthy Time with quick approach destroys
The vernal bloom before youth's bounding feet.

For the future—will it bring
Quiet and peace? We cannot have
Being without affliction's sting—
Quiet is only in the grave.

Nor is thy onward path o'er beds of roses—
The bird whose ærie is on mountain's brow,
Must bear the solitude his state imposes,
And look down on the world—and so must even thou.

What is high estate and power?
The pageant of a passing hour ?
No! the place by God assigned
To try the clear, enduring mind—
Where the bad display their ill,
Where the good their duties fill.
The ball, the sceptre, and the crown—
The pall of state, the bed of down—
Are types : for those who highest mount
Must to the Master give account,
When their last blazonry is furled,
And on their death-beds lie the rulers of the world.

Victoria! 'Tis an auspicious name,
That suits the brightness shall hereafter bless
The People that high tyranny did tame,
When England was the nations' arbitress.

It also speaks of better things :
 Of true renown that never dies,
 Of comfortable hope that springs
 From more abiding victories—
 Of conquests over self—of passions tamed—
 Of virtue practised, and approved no less—
 And of a nation from mad ways reclaimed
 By tempered dignity and winning gentleness.

There is a power in names ; and words and smiles
 Are most substantial things :—the royal eye,
 With a soft glance stern faction's gloom beguiles,
 And wins the heart of fierce disloyalty.
 The fair Hungarian showed herself
 And won swords, hands, and hearts :—nor less,
 When comes the proof, shall our own Guelph
 Assure her realms' devotedness.
 Then show thyself, bright Maiden ! to the People ;
 At thy approach be heard the acclaiming cry—
 Let jubilant peals from steeple ring to steeple,
 And so thyself become thine own best Victory.

For high and useful ends to live
 Is the best prerogative
 That hedges thrones : the Royal Tudor
 When the Spaniards' wrath pursued her,
 Did her royalty approve,
 By trusting to her people's love ;
 And never, never be it said
 That England's generous heart is dead
 To loyalty, whilst William lives,
 And to his throne his Consort gives
 Her virtuous light—and in the distance far,
 Uprises meek the dawning of thy star.

Open thy gates, old perdurable pile,
 Bright spirit of the Saxon Convertite, ¹
 High Founder! whose name yet in the crypt aisle
 Survives, welcome the Virgin Neophite!
 From her religious pledges new ²
 Here doth her gracious presence shine
 Like thine own Edelgurga true;
 But happier be her end than thine!
 Fast rolling Ouse! not now thy Eagar tide, ³
 But pour a softly curling stream along:
 Wide Vale of York! ⁴ Rejoice that England's pride,
 Now visits thee to hear the swell of holy song.

Sweet daughter of a Royal line,
 Make thy lustrous light to shine,
 That men may see the good thou doest,
 And love the path that thou pursuest,
 From the threshold of thy youth
 Up the hill of heavenly truth.
 Royal Virgin! wise and pure,
 In the care of Heaven secure,
 Thee no evil thing shall harm,
 But thy true worth shall disarm
 Hate of its sting—to thee be given
 That more than mortal crown—the heritage of heaven.

¹ Edwin the Great—Founder of York Cathedral. The first of the Saxon Kings converted to Christianity.

² In allusion to the recent confirmation of the Princess.

³ "The Eagar," a back current of the Ouse.

⁴ "The Vale of York" in which the City stands.

VISIT TO HAREWOOD HOUSE.

The Duchess of Kent and Princess Victoria left Bishopsthorpe at ten o'clock in the morning of Saturday the 12th of September, for Harewood House, the seat of the Earl of Harewood, after having partaken of the archiepiscopal hospitality for exactly one week, during which period the amiable virtues of the former conciliated general regard, whilst the intelligence and affability of the latter, united to her interesting countenance and engaging manners, attracted the most heartfelt attachment, at the same time that the propriety and dignity of her conduct, so remarkable at her tender years, commanded universal respect. The royal travellers reached Harewood about one, and were received and welcomed, at the entrance of his lordship's ancient baronial hall, by the Earl and Countess of Harewood and several members of their family. A large assemblage of spectators awaited the arrival of their Royal Highnesses ; and the Harewood troop of the Yorkshire Hussars, commanded by the Honourable William Sebright Lascelles, was drawn up on the lawn in front of the mansion. A party of twenty almost immediately partook of a very splendid luncheon, served in the music-room, on the right

of the entrance-hall, and shortly afterwards the Duchess of Kent, the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland, the Earl and Countess of Harewood, Lady Flora Hastings, and Lady Caroline Lascelles, took an airing in two carriages and four through the noble earl's domains ; but the Princess Victoria was too much fatigued to join the party. At six in the evening their Royal Highnesses, together with above a hundred guests, sat down to a sumptuous dinner in the long gallery ; and soon after ten the company began to separate.

It having been generally understood that the Royal Party would attend divine service in the Parish Church of Harewood, on the following day, there was a very large muster of visitors on the occasion, embracing persons of various grades from all the towns and villages within a distance of fifteen miles, all impatient for the moment which should exhibit to their view at once a Mother's pride and a Nation's hope. As the morning was very fine, the Royal Party proceeded to church on foot ; and notwithstanding the vast crowd assembled, the greatest good order prevailed. The Duchess of Kent walked first arm-in-arm with the Earl of Harewood, next came the Princess Victoria with Miss Harcourt, followed by the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland, Viscount and Viscountess Milton, and several members of Lord Harewood's family. Their Royal Highnesses returned the salutations of the spectators with their usual attentive courtesy ; both were

plainly dressed in black, with white silk bonnets. The church was crowded to excess, but the utmost order and decorum prevailed within it ; prayers were read by the Rev. Mr. Grundy, the Curate, and the sermon was preached by the Archbishop of York, from the 9th chapter of St. John, and the 4th verse, "The night cometh when no man can work." At the conclusion of the service, the illustrious Ladies with their party again walked home amidst a greatly increased assemblage of spectators, who, when all had congregated in front of the mansion, could not be estimated at much less than ten thousand in number. When the Princess Victoria had ascended the terrace leading to the entrance-hall, she turned round, and, gracefully saluting the by-standers, was hailed with a general shout of affectionate greeting : shortly after she had retired, the Earl of Harewood addressed the crowd, saying, that as many persons might probably expect that their Royal Highnesses would attend divine service at the church in the afternoon, and would remain awaiting the opportunity of seeing them, he thought it right to consult their convenience by announcing that it was not the intention of either the Duchess or her Daughter to go to church again that day.

On the following morning, at ten o'clock, the august travellers took leave of, the Earl and Countess of Harewood, and proceeded towards Wentworth House, where they purposed to honour the Earl Fitzwilliam with a visit of two or three

days, for the purpose of attending Doncaster Races. On their route thither they passed through

LEEDS,

Where every preparation had been made to give them a reception worthy of their virtues, and expressive of the interest which the youth, loveliness, and high destiny of the Princess excited in every British bosom. The Corporation and the inhabitants generally would have rejoiced in an opportunity of presenting her with a loyal and affectionate address of congratulation; but an intimation was given to the proper authorities that, although she was always most glad to receive and respond to such tokens of regard and respect as might be offered her, wherever she rested over the night, her Royal Highness could not deviate from the principle she had invariably acted upon of not receiving addresses from towns which she merely passed through, on account of the impossibility of replying to such marks of attachment in a manner satisfactory to her own feelings. Her sex, it was with great propriety observed, was an obstacle to her alighting at hotels oftener than necessity demanded, and she could not, with due respect to those who offered them, receive addresses at the carriage window. These reasons were deemed entirely satisfactory, and the trifling disappointment thus occasioned, did not at all detract from the

loyalty and spirit with which the Inhabitants hailed the passage of their future Queen, through their populous and busy town. At an early hour in the morning, the whole vicinity put on its holiday garb; the bells of the churches ringing merry peals; and the military promenading the streets in goodly array. But as the day advanced, not only all parts of the town through which the royal *cortége* were expected to pass, but even the road for above a mile along the northern entrance into Leeds, were crowded to suffocation; every window, chimney, wall, and nook, likely to afford a glimpse of the Heiress Presumptive, were fully occupied, and the whole line profusely decorated with flags, mottos, evergreens, and flowers. The crowd in Briggate, particularly in front of the hotel, where their Royal Highnesses were expected to change horses, was immense; and though something like a convenient opening had been effected for the passage of the Royal Carriages, prior to their arrival, yet, so eager were the people to obtain a glimpse of the Princess and her Mother, that it was impossible to preserve order: such was the pressure indeed, that it was found impracticable for the horses to force their way out of the hotel yard, and after the pause of a minute, the carriages were ordered to drive on. Their Royal Highnesses had been met at the entrance of the town by a number of persons in carriages and on horseback, and the irregularity which occurred in Briggate was mainly occasioned by the equestrians,

who instead of proceeding onwards, attempted to range themselves round the carriages till the horses were changed. It is difficult to describe the scene which Briggate presented when the carriages moved forward ; men, women, and children—equestrians and pedestrians—following in a mass. When the street was somewhat thinned, the horses which had been provided, fourteen in number, all greys, richly caparisoned, the postillions dressed in new blue jackets, made their way out of the Hotel Yard, and having overtaken the carriages in Hunslet Lane, about half a mile from the town, the horses that had come from Harewood were unharnessed, the fresh ones put to, and the party proceeded onward at a brisk pace.

It is affirmed that on this memorable occasion, there were from a hundred and twenty to a hundred and thirty thousand persons assembled between the Barracks and the Thwaite-Gate toll-bar, a space of about three miles ; and although all were eager to get near the royal carriage, and the pushing and squeezing was not of the most gentle order, there was not a single expression of dissatisfaction. On the contrary, all ranks of people vied with each other in doing honour to the youthful Princess, who was at first somewhat agitated, turning suddenly pale, probably from alarm ; but when she saw the spirit by which the tremendous crowd was actuated, her Royal Highness regained her self-possession, enjoyed the scene ; and at Hunslet, while the horses

were changing, cordially shook hands with a great many of the persons who were nearest the carriage, displaying all the graceful affability of the Royal race from whence she springs : she never before, perhaps, saw John Bull so completely in the majesty of his physical power ; but if his reception of his Royal Daughter was a little rough, it was at the same time respectful, passing loyal, and most heartily affectionate. The Royal Party reached

WAKEFIELD,

Soon after twelve o'clock ; and here, as at Leeds, the pressure of the immense multitude assembled was so great as to render it utterly impossible to change horses ; they therefore proceeded, as before, with great difficulty through the town, the relays following to a convenient distance. Arrived at

SANDAL,

About a mile from the town, the Duchess and the Princess alighted unexpectedly at the house of Mrs. Hargrave ; and, a little exhausted by the morning's journey, they partook of refreshment, hastily prepared for her Illustrious Visitors, by the gratified lady of the house, with whom they remained a considerable time in friendly conversa-

tion, expressing the great satisfaction their cordial reception by the inhabitants of Wakefield had afforded them. Their Royal Highnesses in taking leave of Mrs. Hargrave promised to transmit to her a portrait of the young Princess, as a memorial of her visit, and as an acknowledgment of the attentions of their hostess.

BARNSELEY.

This town began to assume a lively appearance at an early hour ; every village in the neighbourhood was deserted ; young and old, rich and poor, dressed in the best attire, some in vehicles and some on foot, were flocking to this point, all eager to catch a glimpse of the young Princess, the Hope of England. The town was beautifully decorated with a triumphal arch, flowers, evergreens, and flags. About ten o'clock, the Cavalry began to muster, and a little after eleven, they marched out about three miles on the Wakefield road, in order to escort the Princess and her Royal Mother into Barnsley. At two the carriages made their appearance ; the Cavalry immediately drew their swords, the officers giving the salute, and without stopping the *cortége*, the advance guard moved off, and the different sections fell in with the carriages as they came up. In consequence of the steepness

of the hill at the entrance of the town, and the immense concourse of people, the carriages moved slowly. On arriving at the White Bear Hotel, it was again found impossible to change the horses; they therefore continued their route, and on their passing under the Triumphal Arch, the band struck up "Rule Britannia." At this moment the scene was most interesting; the spacious market-place was one complete mass of people, whilst all the windows were studded with ladies waving their handkerchiefs and joining in the huzzas of the populace. After passing slowly through the town, orders were given to the postboys to proceed at a quicker rate; and on reaching Bank Top, about a mile farther on, the people being left a long way in the rear, the change of horses took place without any inconvenience: meanwhile, the gentlemen on horseback uncovered, and formed in line on each side of the road, cheering the Royal Party as they passed; the Princess Victoria, as well as her august Parent, returned the compliment in a lively manner, and appeared much pleased with the reception she had met with at Barnsley.

At HOOD-HILL, the Wath Troop of Yeomanry, commanded by Captain Lord Milton, awaited the arrival of the Illustrious Guests, and escorted them to

WENTWORTH HOUSE.

Where Earl Fitzwilliam awaited their arrival, and

received them with princely hospitality. On the following morning, the Princess Victoria was presented by Viscount Milton with a splendid token of affectionate loyalty, comprising a perfect specimen of Yorkshire manufacture. It was a beautiful morocco case, ornamented on the top by a large gold shield, with the coronet and cypher of the young Princess engraven upon it, and containing every article of cutlery appropriate for female use, set in the finest mother of pearl ; on the handles of the knives, and on every other article the size of which would admit of it, was a beautifully engraved picture of Wentworth House, with the letter V under it, the whole being richly mounted in gold.

Their Royal Highnesses also on this day attended Doncaster Races, to which their presence lent an extraneous and lively interest, particularly as they entered into the spirit of the passing scene, the young Princess especially, with all the energy which its novelty and splendour was calculated to inspire ; and her observations upon the subject of sporting, which it may be imagined had not made a very prominent feature in her studies, were in a high degree *naïve* and amusing. On this occasion too her Royal Highness was first introduced to an accomplished young Prince, who it is said has since sued for the high honour of the permanent possession of her fair hand, which was at this time held out to him in all the frankness of equality and friendship. The Duke de Nemours, handsome in his person, elegant in

his manners, and amiable in his disposition, was presented to the Heiress Presumptive of the British Throne, on the Doncaster Race-course, and afterwards accompanied the Royal Party on their visit to Wentworth House, which visit was prolonged till Friday the 18th, although they did not again attend the Doncaster Races, as had been originally intended.

A PRACTICAL ILLUSTRATION.

During the short abode of the Princess at the Earl Fitzwilliam's splendid mansion, much of her time was spent as usual in perambulating the beautiful and extensive grounds appertaining to it. On one of these occasions, her Royal Highness being in advance of the party, was respectfully cautioned by an undergardener not to take a certain walk, as the late rains had made the ground upon a particular spot in it, "slape." "Slape, slape!" said the Princess, with the characteristic inquisitiveness of a descendant of George III., "and pray what is slape?" "Very slippery, Madam," replied the man. However, in spite of the warning thus given, like a genuine sprig of the House of Brunswick, onward she gaily proceeded. On reaching the "slape" ground, down she came. "There," exclaimed the Noble Owner of the ground, who on perceiving no injury was done, laughingly approached, "now your Royal Highness

has received an explanation of the term 'slape,' both theoretically and practically." "Yes," rejoined the good humoured Princess, "I shall never forget the meaning of "slape."

VISIT TO BURLEIGH.

From Wentworth House their Royal Highnesses proceeded to Belvoir Castle, where they domesticated with the Duke of Rutland and his family, till the following Monday, on which day they arrived at Burleigh House, the seat of the Marquis of Exeter. On their route thither they were received, at every town and village, with an enthusiasm of welcome which has been accorded to our youthful Sovereign alone for very many years past. At MELTON MOWBRAY, and at OAKHAM, especially, every exertion was made to exhibit the joy of the inhabitants at being indulged with a temporary glimpse of one on whom so many hopes and affections rested. At the latter place the National School Children were drawn out, a sight always delightful to the Princess, and met the august travellers at the end of the town, dressed in their Sunday attire, and each wearing a *bouquet*. At STAMFORD, in the immediate vicinity of which town is situated the noble mansion now about to be honoured with the presence of Royalty, a meeting of the Corporation and Inhabitants was convened at the Town Hall on the preceding

Friday, when it was unanimously resolved that "An Address be prepared to be presented to their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and Princess Victoria, at such time, place, and manner as may hereafter be found to be agreeable to them ; and that the Corporation with the Inhabitants assemble at the north end of the town, and form a procession to escort the Royal Party to the south end of St. Martin's." On Saturday afternoon, a second meeting took place, when the Mayor read a letter he had received from the Marquis of Exeter, who was then at Belvoir Castle, with the Royal Party. It announced their Royal Highnesses' pleasure to receive the Address at Burleigh, at a quarter before three o'clock, and that they would be proud to be escorted through the town by a procession of the Inhabitants.

On Monday morning, as early as eight o'clock, the bells of the different churches commenced a merry peal, and soon after eleven, every thing was in motion, the inhabitants repairing in throngs to the Town Hall, the place of *rendezvous* for the procession. By an excellent arrangement an express was stationed at Oakham, which, as soon as the Royal Carriages appeared in sight, was to start for Stamford, and bring intelligence to the Town Hall, in order that the procession might move forward, reach the top of Scotgate previously to their Royal Highnesses, and receive them there ; but, as it usually happens, when anticipation is on tiptoe,

time moved on leaden wings, and between twelve and one, great impatience being manifested to proceed, the party arranged themselves in procession, and issued forth. The clouds assumed a threatening aspect, and by the time the Cavalcade arrived at the top of Scotgate, the drops began to descend pretty freely ; but the loyalty of Stamford was proof against the weather, and *malgré* all the evils of a steeping rain, with the exception of a few deserters, the party waited patiently the arrival of the Royal *cortége*. The procession had been thus exposed to the storm for the space of at least an hour, when the express rode up, bringing intelligence that he had left the illustrious party ten miles off, and that they would quickly follow him ; accordingly, in about a quarter of an hour, their Royal Highnesses arrived in sight, and the greeting they received from heart and voice was most enthusiastic. The procession was immediately put in proper order, and a body guard of gentlemen with white wands surrounded the royal carriage. The band then struck up " God save the King," and the Cavalcade advanced ; during its progress, " The Queen's March," and " Rule Britannia," were also played ; several halts were called, and were the signals for renewed cheering. When the party arrived at the top of St. Martin's, the gentlemen of the town filed off to the right and left, forming a line for the carriages to pass ; the air again resounded to the National Anthem, and the Royal Ladies took their

leave amidst the heartfelt adieus of the assembled populace. In passing through the town the Duchess and the Princess bowed in a very condescending manner to the numerous groups of ladies who filled the windows, and indeed their deportment was of the most gracious and fascinating kind towards all classes. Her Highness of Kent, as well as her lovely Daughter, chatted much with the gentlemen, who as a guard of honour, walked beside the royal carriages; and they both repeatedly expressed their great concern that the unfavourable weather should have exposed to inconvenience those who had so kindly assembled "to do them honour." The young Princess was evidently pained by the circumstance, and her interesting features, beaming with benevolence and intelligence, very strongly reminded the spectators of the late beloved Princess Charlotte.

On arriving at Burleigh House, the Heiress Presumptive was received, with all due honours, by the Noble Marquis himself, a royal salute being fired from the grounds. The Deputation from the Inhabitants of Stamford were punctual to their appointed time, and at a quarter before three were ushered into the Library, where the Marquis of Exeter awaited them, and immediately conducted them to the presence of the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria, in the Drawing-room, where the Noble Host, as Recorder of the Borough, read the following Address : ---

“ To her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.

“The humble Address of the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, and Capital Burgesses of the Borough of Stamford, and the Inhabitants thereof, and of St. Martin's, Stamford Baron :—

“May it please your Royal Highness,

We, his Majesty's most dutiful and loyal Subjects, the Mayor, Recorder, Aldermen, and Capital Burgesses, Inhabitants of the Borough of Stamford, and of St. Martin's, Stamford Baron, humbly beg permission to approach your Royal Highness to offer our most sincere congratulations on your Royal Highness's safe arrival.

“We are anxiously desirous to express our thanks to your Royal Highness for the great pleasure and satisfaction your Royal Highness has given us by visiting this part of the country, and by affording us an opportunity of offering this humble tribute of our profound respect and dutiful attachment to your Royal Highness, and the illustrious Princess who is destined, under Divine Providence, to succeed to the Throne of these Realms.

“That your Royal Highnesses may long continue to enjoy the most perfect health, and every other blessing, is our earnest prayer, as it must be that of all his Majesty's loyal Subjects.

“Given at the Town Hall, under the Common Seal of the said Borough, the 21st Day of September, in the year of our Lord 1835.

“FRANCIS BUTT, MAYOR.”

The following Answer was then delivered by the Duchess of Kent :—

“GENTLEMEN,

“I am deeply sensible of your attention to the Princess and myself. The sentiments you convey to us from the Corporation and Inhabitants of Stamford, as well as the cordial reception they have just given us, are most gratifying to our feelings: and we shall gratefully cherish the recollection of a visit which you so loyally notice to mark your attachment to the King.”

The Deputation afterwards partook of a *dejeune-a-la-fourchette*. A dinner of thirty-six covers was prepared at six o'clock in the great hall or banquetting-room, sixty-eight feet long by thirty wide, the arched roof of which, springing from brackets in the style of Westminster Hall, had for very many years previously been painted, but on the present occasion, the paint had been removed at a vast expense of labour, and that beautiful piece of oaken carved work, believed to be more ancient than the other parts of the building, restored to its natural state. The north end of the hall was fitted up for the sideboard, and the most brilliant effect produced by the profusion of costly gold plate. Amongst the various ornaments was a beautiful fountain flowing into a magnificent silver cistern, supposed to be the largest in England, the handles

of which are lions, admirably executed, the supporters of his lordship's arms.

The following select party sat down to dinner with their Royal Highnesses :—The Duke of Rutland, the Marquis of Granby, Earl and Countess of Brownlow, Viscount Alford, Lady Sophia Cust, Earl Bathurst, Earl and Countess of Darlington, Lord and Lady Charles Fitzroy, Lady Frederick Bentinck, Earl and Countess of Lindsey, Lady Augusta Poulett, Lord Arthur Hill, Lady Flora Hastings, Lady Catherine Jenkinson, Lord and Hon. Mr. Grimston, George Finch, Esq., and Lady Louisa, Col., and Lady Alice Peel, G. J. Heathcote, Esq., and Hon. Mrs. Heathcote, Hon. Capt. Spencer, Mr. Greville, Sir John Conroy, Rev. Mr. Pegus, Dr. Willis, and Rev. R. Atlay. Captain Spencer presided at the head of the table, and at the bottom the Rev. R. Atlay, domestic chaplain to the Marquis of Exeter ; at the right of the table, in the middle, sat their Royal Highnesses, supported on the left of the Duchess by the Marquis of Exeter, and on the right of the Princess by the Duke of Rutland ; on the opposite side were Sir John Conroy and the Marchioness of Exeter. The Duke of Rutland's military band was stationed in the Entrance-hall, and enlivened the scene with a choice selection of music, including several favourite glees. Soon after dinner the ladies retired from the table, and in the evening about three hundred persons of rank and fashion assembled at an

early hour, by express invitation of the Marchioness, to have the honour of meeting their Royal Highnesses ; a suite of rooms was prepared for dancing, cards, and refreshments, and Adams's band struck up, at ten o'clock, a new set of quadrilles, called, "The Victoria," which was led off by the Princess Victoria and the Marquis of Exeter. Dancing was kept up with great spirit until after three o'clock. The condescension of both the august Visitors, particularly the lively and engaging manners of the young Princess, gave additional zest to the splendid entertainments of the evening, and won the love and admiration of all who were partakers in the festive scene. Both at the dinner-table and in the ball-room the Princess Victoria was highly animated, and was seen to much greater advantage than in the carriage and with a bonnet. Supper was served in the great hall, and was such as became the occasion and the hospitality of the noble Marquis. The suite of rooms prepared for the Duchess and the Princess were unique. In the bed-room was a magnificent state bed for her Royal Highness, with a smaller one for the Princess, which were greatly admired by the illustrious occupants : the grate, fender, fire-irons, &c., were most curious ; the family crests, coronets, and other ornaments, being wrought upon them in massive silver. The dressing-rooms were splendid, and the gold toilette plate very gorgeous : on one dressing-table, richly embossed, was a service of Queen Elizabeth's ; on another,

that of King James I. The carvings that ornament the different rooms are costly in the extreme ; but the chief objects of attraction in this superb residence are the numerous paintings by the first masters, which abound in all the rooms, and which the Princess Victoria, whose taste was even at her present early age highly cultivated, spent several very delightful hours in examining.

At ten o'clock the next morning, their Royal Highnesses left Burleigh House for Holkham. The most distinguished receptions they met with on this day's journey were at PETERBOROUGH, WISBEACH, and

LYNN,

At which latter place the most extensive preparations had been made to welcome the Royal Visitors. The Authorities having resolved that a public entry best befitted the occasion, a procession, consisting of upwards of ten thousand persons, assembled at the South-gates, to wait the arrival of the Royal *cortége*, the approach of which was announced at about four o'clock by distant cheering, which gradually neared, increasing in strength and enthusiasm. The procession now moved forward by the London road, St. James's Street, and High Street ; gentlemen on horseback took the lead, then came the town band of brass instruments, with flags and

banners, made expressly for the occasion, and bearing suitable devices. The pedestrians, who formed a very numerous class in the procession, followed for some time in the train ; but the exuberance of loyalty at length overcame the reluctance of the Duchess to allow the horses to be taken from the carriage ; and this, notwithstanding her Royal Highness's strong intreaties to the contrary, was effected, (for the first time in the course of her Northern Tour,) before the procession reached St. James's Street ; and their Royal Highnesses were triumphantly drawn by the people, through the Saturday Market-place and High Street, onwards round the Tuesday Hill, and thence up Norfolk Street. The horses were re-attached to the carriage on the entrance to the Gaywood road, and the Royal Party, who appeared much pleased with their reception, started off amid loud huzzas, the band playing " God save the King."

VISIT TO HOLKHAM.

The numerous demonstrations of regard which greeted the amiable travellers throughout their progress, delayed their arrival at Holkham to a considerably later hour than had been anticipated ; the Park, which was liberally thrown open on the occasion, had been meanwhile filling to an overflow

with persons of all descriptions, on foot, in carriages, and on horseback, all animated with the strongest desire to obtain a passing glance of their much-loved Princess. The tenantry of Holkham met the Royal Party at the triumphal arch, erected for the occasion at a distance of two miles from the House, and many of the first families in the neighbourhood attended at the Park-gate to accompany them onwards. At the north front of the Mansion were stationed the Preventive Service of the district, commanded by Captain Currie, and at eight o'clock in the evening their Royal Highnesses were received at the entrance to Holkham Hall, by Mr. Coke, now Earl of Leicester, its venerable Possessor, in person. A magnificent dinner was almost immediately served to the Illustrious Guests, and a select party invited to meet them ; and the Princess Victoria retired early to rest, having been considerably fatigued by the many ceremonies which the warm-hearted loyalty of her future Subjects had imposed upon her throughout the day, in addition to the inconveniences incident to travelling. She rose, however, in the morning in renewed health and spirits, and after partaking of a social breakfast, walked with Lady Jane Coke, and some of her visitors through the extensive pleasure-grounds and gardens, returning to the Hall at about one o'clock to receive, in company with her Mother, a deputation from the Inhabitants of the Port of Wells, headed by T. Garwood Esq., who congratulated their Royal

Highnesses on their visit to Holkham in the following Address :—

“ To her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.

“ May it please your Royal Highness,

“ We, the Inhabitants of the Port of Wells, beg, in all humility, to convey to your Royal Highness the expression of our dutiful and respectful attachment to your Royal Highness and your illustrious Daughter.

“ We wish at the same time to assure your Royal Highness of the gratification we feel, at the happy occasion of this visit which your Royal Highness has condescended to make to Mr. Coke, so justly endeared to us, and to the country at large, by his many admirable qualities, and which has procured for us the high honour of being permitted to approach your Royal Person. We are fully sensible of the gratitude which is due to your Royal Highness from ourselves, in common with our fellow-countrymen, for the manner in which you have discharged the anxious and important trust that has devolved upon you ; and we desire humbly to express our confidence that those public and private virtues which so eminently adorn your Royal Highness are so transmitted to the mind of your illustrious Charge, as shall fit her for those high and important duties, which in the common course of events, she may one day be called upon to perform. That every blessing which this life can bestow may be showered upon your Royal Highness is our most earnest and heartfelt prayer.”

Both the Duchess and the Princess conducted

themselves to the Deputation in the most affable and engaging manner ; and the Duchess returned to their Address this truly gratifying answer:—

GENTLEMEN,

“My long promised visit to our excellent Host and your respected Neighbour, allows the Princess and myself to receive, with many grateful feelings, the expressions of attachment you convey to us from the Inhabitants of the Port of Wells, which their loyalty to the King leads them to offer to us, as Members of his Family. I regret that the lateness of our arrival, yesterday, prevented our witnessing the gratifying demonstrations of regard intended to be shown us ; but we were delayed at other places by many a cordial welcome.

“I share deeply in all your anticipations relative to the Princess : I am confident she will be found worthy of the affectionate solicitude she so universally inspires : it is the object of my life to render her deserving of it.”

In the afternoon their Royal Highnesses, accompanied by Mr. Coke, Lady Anne, and a large party, proceeded in open carriages, to view the village and adjacent country, prolonging their excursion nearly till the hour of dinner.

On Thursday, at ten o'clock, they departed from Holkham, and proceeded to Euston Hall, the seat of the Duke of Grafton.

It is painful to turn from the exhilarating and al-

most triumphal scene which had attended the whole course of the Princess's progress, during which her sweet, unassuming deportment, and her interesting person, had won her golden opinions from all sorts of people, to the unjust and indelicate strictures which were in some quarters passed upon her present visit to Mr. Coke of Holkham ; and lamentable to revert to party efforts, calculated to weaken the loyal affection with which the dawning excellencies of the " Hope of England," and the irreproachable character of her Parent and Protector, were every where regarded ; but still more lamentable was it, at this period, to observe the severely restricted system thus early applied to the innocent recreations of youth, and that circle of enjoyment narrowed in which our blooming Heiress might at least as yet freely indulge, quite independently of party associations. If politics could be supposed to have in any degree induced this visit, was it not at least counterbalanced by those of the preceding days to the Duke of Rutland, and the Marquis of Exeter ? Meanwhile, not only a natural but a generous motive, for the honour accorded to this venerable and respectable gentleman, is to be found in the fact of his having been the friend of the deceased Father of the Princess, and introduced as such to her exemplary Mother. It was sad to see the pastimes and pleasures of one, in such intimate relation to the best interests of the country, converted into anxieties and apprehensions; pastimes and pleasures resorted to in the hope that

they might operate beneficially upon her health and character, but which must, to a certain extent, have been deprived of their salutary effects by such perpetual subjection and jealous scrutiny and party suspicion.

A short visit to the Duke of Grafton was the last paid by the Royal Ladies upon their present tour, for they were hurrying homewards to give the meeting to a very dear and illustrious relative, King Leopold of Belgium, who was about to pass a short period in this country for the first time since his inauguration to the regal office; therefore, though unwillingly, the Duchess and her Daughter were obliged to decline the numerous invitations which poured in upon them from all quarters, and which, could they have been all accepted, only for a day or two each, would have prolonged their stay in the country until Christmas. Amongst these the visit they most regretted the impossibility of paying, was that to Alnwick Castle, which had been long talked of and looked forward to with delight by the young Princess; still her Royal Highness consoled herself with the belief that it was but a pleasure postponed; postponed however it has been to the present moment, no favourable opportunity having yet occurred for its enjoyment, although it is confidently stated that her most gracious Majesty is still very anxious to fill this interesting engagement, and will certainly avail herself of the occasion to do so, should circumstances favour her intended trip to Scotland during

the ensuing summer. Meanwhile she had had the gratification of receiving, throughout the entire of her present journey, that unbought homage which springs from the heart—respect, interest, attachment met her at every step—and of feeling also that this was not a tribute which might have been accorded to any personage of royal birth, or to any presumptive successor to the throne, but that it proceeded advisedly from a thinking people, who had watched with the deepest solicitude the indications of an enlightened education, adapted to the genius of the age, and the high destinies of the august Pupil ; and that the sentiment of loyalty which never fails them was, in this instance, strengthened by a sense of the worth of its object, enhanced indeed, in all probability, by the peculiar interest which the sex and personal qualifications of England's Heiress shed unconsciously around her.

VISIT TO CANTERBURY.

Their Royal Highnesses arrived at Kensington Palace to dinner, on Friday the 25th of September, and on the following Monday left it again for Ramsgate ; at which town, the anticipated meeting with the King and Queen of the Belgians was to take place. At about six on the same evening the illustrious travellers arrived with their suite at the

Fountain Hotel, Canterbury, and were welcomed by a large concourse of persons assembled for the purpose. Soon after their arrival the Mayor summoned the Aldermen and Common Councilmen of the City, in order to consult what steps should be adopted on the occasion of the royal visit. The result was that an Address was agreed upon ; and a deputation appointed to wait upon their Royal Highnesses, and ascertain at what time they would be pleased to receive it. The deputation had an interview at the Fountain Hotel with Sir John Conroy, and having expressed the desire of the Corporation, Sir John conferred with their Highnesses, and on his return to the deputation, stated that the Royal Party had named Tuesday morning, at half-past nine o'clock, for the audience. In the course of the same evening, Sir Brook Brydges, Bart., Captain of the Yeomanry Cavalry, offered an escort to attend their Royal Highnesses from Canterbury to Ramsgate, which offer was accepted by the Duchess of Kent, for a distance of two miles out of the town.

At eight o'clock on Tuesday morning, the Mayor and Aldermen, with about twenty Common Councilmen, assembled at the Guildhall, and proceeded from thence in their robes of office, shortly after nine, to the Fountain Hotel, the bells of the numerous churches ringing merry peals. At the Hotel, the members of the Corporation were ushered into a spacious apartment, and soon after her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, with the Princess Victoria,

attended by Sir John Conroy, entered the room, and J. Partridge, Esq., the Mayor, read the Address, which was engrossed on a sheet of fine vellum. The Duchess having returned a very gracious and pleasing answer, both their Royal Highnesses curtsied to the members of the Corporation, and retired to an adjoining room, where another deputation, consisting of the Archdeacon, and three of the Prebendaries of Canterbury, was in waiting to pay the tribute of respect to their Royal Highnesses, and invite them to view the interior of the Cathedral. The Duchess of Kent assured the deputation that both herself and Daughter would have great pleasure in so doing; but having made arrangements to proceed to Ramsgate without delay, they would take an opportunity to make a special visit for the purpose. The band of the 48th Regiment, stationed at Canterbury, played in front of the Fountain Hotel during the morning, and on quitting Canterbury, between ten and eleven o'clock, their Royal Highnesses were loudly cheered as they passed down the various streets on their way to Ramsgate, escorted by the Yeomanry.

RAMSGATE.

A Committee having been formed for the purpose of receiving the illustrious Visitors with appropriate

honour, they communicated with Sir John Conroy on the subject, who stated in reply, that her Royal Highness and her illustrious Daughter declined every kind of military escort into the town, trusting to the known attachment of the Inhabitants of Ramsgate to receive them in such a manner as might be most agreeable to their feelings. It was also the express wish of their Royal Highnesses that the horses should not be taken from the carriage, as accidents might arise. A line of procession having been arranged, the Committee and principal Inhabitants, with white wands and rosettes, proceeded to the extremity of High Street, at a quarter to twelve o'clock ; a few minutes afterwards the royal carriages approached, and the procession was immediately formed in the following order : the Mayor and one hundred of the principal Inhabitants of Ramsgate and its vicinity ; the Committee, with white wands ; and the royal carriages ; the rear being brought up by a small body of the Yeomanry Cavalry. In this form the procession proceeded through the streets, passing under the arches of laurel, oak branches, and other evergreens, which had been erected in various parts of the town ; the bells meanwhile ringing, the guns firing, the people running and cheering,—all, in short was gaiety and bustle by land, whilst the numerous vessels in the harbour were decorated with the colours of all nations. The Duchess and Princess, who were distinctly visible from the carriage windows, were

looking in admirable health, and their welcome presence not only inspired universal joy, but gladdened the hearts of many who had long regarded them with grateful and affectionate attachment.

The Duchess condescendingly requested the Committee, who walked by the side of her carriage, to put on their hats, and kindly hoped the pace of the horses was not too quick for them. As soon as their Royal Highnesses had alighted at Albion House, they ascended to the drawing-room, and immediately appeared upon the balcony, notwithstanding the windy state of the weather, and returned the greetings of the assembled crowd around and below them, by repeated curtsies, the young Princess accompanying her graceful bend with smiles of winning softness. Soon afterwards, a deputation from the Committee were introduced to her Royal Highness and the Princess Victoria, in the drawing-room, when the Duchess expressed the high gratification she and the Princess had experienced from the kind reception they had met with from the People of Ramsgate. A deputation from the Corporation was also received, and their Royal Highnesses appointed eleven o'clock, on Wednesday, for the presentation of the Address prepared for them.

ARRIVAL OF THE KING AND QUEEN OF THE BELGIANS.

The next point of interest was the expected ar-

rival of their Majesties of Belgium, of which the following letter, penned by an eye-witness of the scene, contains not an inapt description :—

“ *Broadstairs, October 1, 1835.*

“ A grand day for Ramsgate was last Tuesday; a blustering and cloudy morning ushered in a cheerful and serene noon. The expected arrival of the Duchess of Kent and her illustrious Daughter, and her meeting with her Royal Brother and his young Queen, caused all the neighbouring towns and villages to empty themselves into its favoured locality. We were, unluckily, an hour too late to greet the arrival of the Royal Ladies, but waited with patient expectation that of Leopold and his Consort. * * * * * At length a steamer was seen approaching, whose illustrious freight was heralded by a royal flag, proudly waving from her top-mast. As a broad-backed wave bore the gallant ship into the harbour, she bowed and bent her pennon, like a condescending Princess making her *entrée*, whilst a royal salute, with an hilarious burst from the surrounding thousands at once stunned the ears of the Royal Pair, and assured them of an English welcome. By some glorious absurdity, the King and his Bride were made to land at the extremity of the Pier, and walk

its slow length' to their hotel, a distance of near a mile, and that too, after a sea voyage, for no other purpose that we could discover, than that they might be more effectually stared at; a consummation, which would have been equally well secured, had the services of a jollyboat or carriage been called into requisition. Thus elbowed by the eager gazers on all sides, and pushed about by their welcomers in all directions, the Royal Pair made their difficult way through the closely-packed throng. Our attention was for the moment rivetted on Leopold; ten years, which pass lightly over few faces, had left their furrows on his. The favourite of fortune, as he has been through life, he has not been exempted from at least *one* of the heaviest of mortal visitations. Perhaps the cares of a throne might have deepened the seams on his visage, the weight of a crown might have given premature wrinkles to his royal brow; but we, in the sympathy of our hearts, attributed them to the recollection that

"in the dust

"The fair-haired daughter of the Isles was laid!"

The King of the Belgians is now no longer the young and handsome cavalier which we and thousands of others remember him, as he proudly and gracefully bent over 'the scion of chiefs and monarchs.' He looks to a melancholy exactness, the 'lonely lord the 'desolate consort.' He has become grave and

gentlemanlike ; serious, with a touch of dignity ; but our remembrances of what he once was were delightfully recalled by the interesting objecton his arm—his youthful Queen—whom he guarded through the throng more with the anxious air of a parent, than with the tenderness of a doating husband. In her simple yet elegant costume, she was no more than what a thousand well-dressed English girls appear to be ; and yet who shall say that she did not look charming ? Poor little soul ! she gazed timidly, yet not fearfully, at the crowd around her, and there seemed a genuineness in the feeling with which it welcomed her arrival on its native shores. Perhaps they could not help thinking (if mobs ever do (think of her who ought to have been at his side ; perhaps a feeling of sympathy arose in her behalf, because it was whispered that, young as she was, she had already had her trials, and had discovered that an aching heart is often the price of a diadem : but they passed on, and we will follow them to the Albion, where imagination must fill up their meeting with the happy Duchess and her Daughter, who had left their temporary residence to greet the King and Queen at the hotel, and the tearful pleasure with which the youthful Queen must have enjoyed being welcomed by her husband's nearest and dearest relatives. It is pleasant to think (as this amiable and well-timed union demonstrates) that the feelings of affection and kindred, which constitute the best part of private life, exist not less

warmly in the bosoms of royalty. After, it may be presumed, the first introduction was over, and the kiss of love had been given and received, the Royal Party presented themselves at the window of the hotel. John Bull seemed for the time really to forget that all he had got from that good-looking gentleman for so many years past in return for his £50,000 per annum, was that courteous bow; and the graceful inclination of the fair Daughter of Louis-Philip, was received with a most decided and fervent acknowledgment. The Duchess next showed her frank good-humoured face at the window, and another honest shout of applause was raised; then came the modest unaffected Princess, with her truly English countenance, actually beaming with pleasant excitement. She leaned over, and smiled on the crowd; betrayed no 'elegant horror' of its boisterous and vulgar ingredients; but, on the contrary, seemed to express the feeling that it was to them, or rather to the great body of the English People, of which they formed a mere fragment, that she must look for protection and support through the arduous duties she may be one day called upon to perform. We have faith sufficient in our imaginations to believe, that we rightly interpreted the sentiment which her intelligent features portrayed, and also that it was duly appreciated; a deeper feeling seemed to still the multitude, and we have quite enough of the John Bull about us to feel assured that at that moment, a single word inimical to

the enthusiastic feeling in her favour pervading the assembled thousands, would have been visited with summary and ample punishment."

THE ROYAL PARTY AT RAMSGATE.

On Wednesday, according to appointment, the Duchess and her Royal Daughter received the Committee of the Inhabitants in the drawing-room at Albion House, when the following address was presented :

*" To their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and
the Princess Victoria.*

" May it please your Royal Highnesses,—

" We, the Inhabitants of Ramsgate, and its vicinity, beg leave most respectfully to approach your Royal Highnesses with sentiments expressive of gratitude, for the honour conferred on this town by your Royal Highnesses' renewed visit. We beg, also, most respectfully to assure your Royal Highnesses, that no exertion shall be wanting, on our part, to merit this flattering mark of distinction.

" In thus approaching your Royal Highnesses, whilst we earnestly hope, that, through Divine Providence, you will long enjoy prosperity, health, and happiness, we cannot refrain from

expressing, with gratitude undissembled, our full assurance, that the maternal care which has so anxiously watched over the earlier years of the Heiress Presumptive to the Throne of these Realms, will be repaid by the formation of such a character as will adorn a British Crown, and entwine itself around the hearts of the British people.

“We further most respectfully request, that your Royal Highnesses will deign to accept this expression of devoted and sincere attachment from us the dutiful and loyal subjects of our august and beloved Sovereign.”

The Duchess of Kent immediately returned this gratifying answer :—

“GENTLEMEN,

“I am sure you will easily believe that I passed through the town of Ramsgate, yesterday, with many gratified feelings.

“The Princess and myself have the most agreeable recollections of the many happy days we have spent here, and our hearts gratefully respond to the cordial welcome which all classes gave us yesterday.

“My maternal feelings, and those I owe the King and the Country, lead me to share with you in the hopes you express relative to the Princess.

“It is the object of my life to render her deserving of the affectionate solicitude she so universally inspires, and to make her worthy of the attachment and respect of a free and loyal people.”

The committee were afterwards severally presented to their Royal Highnesses, who again expressed a hope that they felt no fatigue from the labour of yesterday, and that no accident had occurred to any of those who formed the procession. An Address was also presented to the King and Queen of the Belgians, to which his Majesty returned an answer expressive of his grateful sense of the kindness of the inhabitants of Ramsgate on the present as well as on many former occasions ; and of his thanks for the good wishes they had expressed towards the Nation whose destinies Providence had been pleased to confide to his care, concluding with an earnest prayer for the welfare and happiness of England.

It may be easily believed that a circumstance so fruitful of surmises and of political conclusions as a visit from a foreign Potentate and his Consort to the British shores, in the unostentatious privacy of a domestic couple, would not be allowed to pass without much senseless discussion upon the motives leading to it, the ends to be gained by it, and the mystery in which it was involved. The prolific imagination of some parties conjured up dangers to the *rights* at least of the interesting Heiress Presumptive from the intrigues of a certain portion of her future loyal and affectionate subjects, to the frustration of which the presence and councils of her illustrious uncle were indispensable ; others believed that the throne of the newly-erected monarchy tottered under the

feet of the King, and that to the necessity of concocting some measures of self-defence, this country was indebted for the honour of the royal presence ; whilst there were those who warmly contended that this visit alone had reference to projects of ambition and family aggrandisement. Thus were far-fetched and improbable motives assigned for an event somewhat unusual indeed, but still under the circumstances extremely natural ; the real causes of which were also obvious and on the surface. That Leopold has never been deficient in the domestic virtues the whole tenor of his life sufficiently proves ; and of his attachment to his Sister and Niece, he has at all times given the most convincing proofs. Unless then the radical doctrine, that persons in high stations cease to possess the affections and sympathies of nature, be adopted, why should it excite surprise that his Belgic Majesty had seized the earliest possible opportunity of visiting those he so much regarded, and of introducing to them his young Queen and Consort ? And why should the gratification of such a visit have been disturbed by political questions, which are always more fitly confided to Ministers and Ambassadors, than taken up by Monarchs themselves ? The annual occurrence of this event, since the period now under review, has probably either baffled the conjectures of political schemers, or blunted the edge of public inquisitiveness, as his Majesty and his amiable Queen have been latterly permitted to enjoy two or three weeks of domestic

retirement with their august Relatives in this country, without being troubled by such indiscrete and indelicate intrusions upon the privacy of their family circle. There were intrusions also of a different character to which the Royal Party were subjected; but these proceedings, either from homely attachment, or, at the worst, from ignorant curiosity, were rather a source of good-humoured amusement than of annoyance. Many of the motley throng who, during the first few days of the residence of these illustrious personages in Ramsgate, constantly surrounded Albion House, were led by their desire to see as much of them as possible, to climb the railings in front of the mansion, and by that means, to overlook the lower suite of rooms, where the Royal Party generally assembled. Some of the respectable inhabitants, shocked at such ill-bred impertinences; hired constables without consulting the Duchess, and placed them about the house to prevent the repetition of it. Their Royal Highnesses no sooner became aware of what was done, than Sir John Conroy was commissioned to dismiss the constables, and courteously to signify to those who had so kindly considered their convenience, that neither the Duchess nor the Princess wished any such interference to be resorted to for the future. The mob being thus left to themselves, their idle curiosity soon died away, and the illustrious relatives were allowed, during the brief sojourn of the King and Queen of the Belgians to enjoy without constraint, an almost uninterrupted intercourse of the most social

and family kind, except that King Leopold left Ramsgate on Thursday evening, to pay a visit to Claremont, and to their Majesties at Windsor Castle, whence he returned on Saturday. Meanwhile the Queen spent her time entirely in the company of her Sister-in-law and Niece, and one of these days they made use of to perform the Duchess's promise of visiting Canterbury Cathedral, where they viewed the whole interior of that venerable edifice, and especially examined the ancient and splendid monuments abounding in every portion of the building; the Dean and several of the Prebendaries who attended their Royal Highnesses, pointing out to their particular notice such as possessed the highest historical or domestic interest. When the hour of Divine Service approached, the massive gates being thrown open, the choir was instantly filled, with the exception of such seats as were reserved for the Royal Visitors. After hearing the beautiful service of our church performed in the best possible style, their Royal Highnesses expressed their thanks to the clergy for their polite attention, quitted the cathedral, and entering their carriages, returned to Ramsgate amidst the enthusiastic cheers of the people, and highly gratified with their visit.

On Sunday, King Leopold having joined his Consort and Relatives at Ramsgate, the whole party attended Divine Service at the New Church, whether with any knowledge of the manner in which

the day—October the 4th, the third centenary of the reformation—was to be observed, cannot be precisely ascertained ; but certain it is, that few sermons were preached on this occasion under more interesting circumstances than that of the Rev. Richard Harvey, at this church, in the presence not only of the Heiress Presumptive to the British Throne, and her august Parent, but also of the King and Queen of the Belgians. The discourse of the worthy Vicar was an unflinching and able exhibition both of Protestantism on the one hand, the true apostolic religion, and of Romanism on the other, as a human invention of more recent date. The King of Belgium listened to the sermon, from beginning to end, with very marked attention ; and his young Queen also seemed fully to understand the whole of it. The lecture seemed not inappropriate to a Prince, who once, as husband to a future Queen of England, was to have been a pillar of protestantism, and who now is, to say the least, a protector of popery, in a land which is outdone by few in Roman Catholic superstition and bigotry. The coincidence which brought to our shores his Belgic Majesty, and with him the Daughter of Louis Philip, at such a time, and which brought them both, when here, into an English church, on such an occasion, may well be deemed extraordinary : how often has the fate of nations, spiritual as well as temporal, hung on events of a far less remarkable character. The Royal Party passed the remainder

of the day in private and domestic association ;
and

On Monday they were splendidly entertained by the Duke of Wellington at Walmer Castle. As soon as the Duke had received intimation of the intention of the Royal Party to honour him with a visit, his Grace kindly issued invitations to a large circle of the nobility and gentry in Walmer and the neighbourhood, to meet them at a *de jeune* ; and the Duke, good-naturedly considering that it would afford the younger branches of several families much gratification to be present, desired they might attend. An hour before the royal *cortége* were expected, Captain Watts, the Captain of the Castle, took his station on the ramparts, for the purpose of giving the earliest notice of the approach of the illustrious Visitors ; and accordingly the signal was given for a royal salute, before they reached the outer gate of the Castle grounds. On the carriages arriving at the draw-bridge the Royal Party were handed from them by the Duke of Wellington, the Earl of Rosslyn, and others, who conducted them up the steps to the rampart facing the sea, where the Visitors were assembled. A semi-circle having been formed, his Grace presented many of the company to his Royal Guests. The early part of the morning had been very lowering; but the weather at this period turned out most propitiously fine ; and the whole scene was replete with varied interest, particularly to those who were invited to partake in it. The immense

number of spectators assembled, both in the grounds and at the sea-front of the Castle, had a very imposing effect from the rampart, the height of which however, was very unfavourable to the recognizing of the Royal Party by those below ; many of them, being especially anxious for an opportunity of showing their particular respect and attachment to the youthful Princess, were disappointed in this desire, although highly gratified with the day's enjoyment. The Royal Party partook of a splendid banquet; and after remaining about two hours, set out on their return to Ramsgate, under another royal salute, and amidst the cheers of the accumulated thousands.

This pleasant *réunion* of these august Personages was not however of long duration ; the high functions of his Belgic Majesty, would not permit of a protracted indulgence of those family affections which had led to the happy meeting. On Wednesday, the 7th of October, his Majesty and his Queen took their departure from the shores of Britain, having been resident within them just eight days; but their Sister and Niece did not take leave of them till the last possible moment; and the embarkation of their Majesties at Dover was the cause of the first and only visit which our gracious Queen has yet made to that port. Accordingly, at seven o'clock in the morning, the whole Royal Party and their attendants set out from Ramsgate, in seven travelling carriages, and were received on their ar-

rival at Dover with the warmest welcome. Long before the appointed hour, the whole town seemed in motion, moving towards the Ship Hotel, and the Harbour. Every housetop and window, where a view could be obtained, was crowded with persons more particularly ladies, anxious to see, if not all the Royal Party, at least the young Queen of the Belgians, and the Princess Victoria, who had neither of them been in Dover before. At nine precisely, a double royal salute from the guns at the heights announced the entrance of the Royal Party into Dover, and a few moments afterwards they passed down the street to the Ship Hotel, followed by the Duke of Wellington, in company with Lord Fitzroy Somerset. On alighting at the Ship Hotel, the Royal Visitors were received by Colonel Arnold, Commandant of the Garrison; Colonel Cockburn, of the Artillery; Lord Charles Wellesley and a guard of honour, with the band of the 5th regiment of foot; and by the Mayor and Corporation of Dover, in their robes. Shortly after, the King and Queen of the Belgians, the Duchess of Kent, and the Princess Victoria, had entered the breakfast-room, Sir John Conroy came down stairs with the commands of the Royal Party, that the Mayor and other authorities of the place should join them at the breakfast-table; and the Duchess further requested that the Mayor would sit opposite to her Royal Highness and the Queen. His Grace the Duke of Wellington, Lord Charles Wellesley, and

Colonels Arnold, Cockburn, and Maclachlan, were also present at the repast ; which being ended, it was intimated to their Majesties, and to the Duchess and Princess, that the Corporation were desirous of presenting Addresses. An answer was returned by Sir John Conroy, that they would immediately receive them in a private room. The Mayor and Corporation having entered the room to which the Royal Party had retired, the Town Clerk read the following Address :—

“To their Royal Highnesses, the Duchess of Kent, and the Princess Victoria.

“ May it please your Royal Highnesses,—

“ We, the Mayor, Jurats, and Common Councilmen of the town and Port of Dover, in the County of Kent, in Common Council [assembled, beg leave, with the utmost respect, to approach your Royal Highnesses, for the purpose of expressing the high and grateful sense we feel of the honour conferred on our ancient and loyal Town, by the visit of your Royal Highnesses.

“ That the Almighty, in his infinite wisdom and mercy, may long preserve to her Royal Highness, the Heiress Presumptive to the Throne of these Realms, that maternal care and protection which have hitherto watched over and fostered her rising virtues, and which have so justly called forth the admiration and gratitude of the Nation, has ever been, and shall continue to be, the object of our earnest prayer.

"We entreat your Royal Highness to accept these sentiments as sincerely expressive of our attachment to your Royal Highnesses, and of feelings of loyalty and affection for our beloved and excellent Sovereign.

"In conclusion, we trust this temporary visit of your Royal Highnesses may lead to the town being honoured, on some future occasion, more permanently with your presence.

"Given under our Common Seal, this Seventh Day of October, 1835."

Her Royal Highness the Duches of Kent replied :—

"GENTLEMEN,

"I was unprepared for this mark of your attention ; but I am sensible that your loyalty to the King has led you to seize this occasion to evince it, by thus receiving the Princess and myself, on our arrival here.

"We are exceedingly gratified by the reception we have met with ; and such demonstrations of regard must always lead us to act so as to merit the attachment of the country.

"As we come here to attend the embarkation of two very dear and illustrious Relatives, our feelings, on the termination of the visit, forbid our remaining to see what is interesting in this Port ; but I hope to bring the Princess, on some future occasion, to Dover.

An Address was then presented to their Majesties the King and Queen of the Belgians. His Majesty, in reply, expressed his gratification at witnessing the feeling with which he and the Queen had been received, both at Dover and other places, during their present short stay in this country. With regard to Dover, he had always, in his former visits, met with the same cordial reception as it had now been his satisfaction to experience; the remembrance of which would, at all future times, make him anxious to re-visit the town.

When the Corporation had been severally presented, the officers of the Garrison had the honour of being introduced to the Royal Personages; and a little before ten o'clock, Captain Hamilton of his Majesty's packet, "Ferret," entered to announce that the tide suited for sailing; and at ten, the hall and passages being lined with the Corporation and many persons of distinction, the whole Party passed through from the state apartments, and proceeded on foot, by Strond Street, to the Packet, at the new Quay, opposite the Council House. The procession was preceded by the Messrs. Worthington, uncovered. The Queen and the Duchess walked in front, accompanied by the Duke of Wellington; the King and the Princess followed, accompanied by Colonel Arnold, Colonel Cockburn, John Minet Ferter, Esq., M. P., S. Latham, Esq., the Belgian Vice Consul, Sir John Conroy, Sir Robt. Gardiner, M. Van de Weyer, and other members of the royal

household, brought up the rear. The whole of the quays, the streets which led to the packet, and both pier heads, were literally crammed to suffocation with well-dressed persons of both sexes, anxious to see and cheer the Royal Visitors. The windows and parapets of the houses were also lined with spectators, who, waving their handkerchiefs and hats, joined in the hearty huzzas of the multitudes below. Although the crowd and pressure were terrific, the Royal Party embarked with the greatest facility, and not an accident of any kind occurred. The King and Queen then took leave of the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria, and also of the Duke of Wellington. As the Mayor was leaving the vessel, the Queen extended her hand to him, and begged him to assure the Corporation and the Inhabitants generally, how very much pleased she felt at the reception she had met with from all classes, a sentiment which was echoed by the King. As the Vessel put off, the guard gave a general salute, the National Anthem was struck up, and it stood out to sea under a second discharge of the Artillery on the heights, whilst the loud and popular demonstrations of respect which accompanied these more formal ceremonies brought tears into the eyes of the Queen as she waved her hand in token of adieu ; indeed every one present appeared deeply interested. Immediately on the departure of their Majesties, the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria ascended their carriages, amidst the cordial

greetings of all who could get near them. They then passed in front of the guard, receiving the salute, and left the town for Ramsgate, under a third discharge of the guns at the Redoubt. The Duke of Wellington, and the distinguished party who accompanied him, returned shortly afterwards to Walmer.

RENEWED RUMOUR OF WEAKNESS.

The visit of the Princess Victoria to Walmer Castle was attended with an unforeseen and distressing circumstance,—her Royal Highness's serious indisposition—arising from serious cold taken by her exposure to the bleak winds on the terrace of the Castle. The seeds of illness thus sown were unfortunately at first neglected; the Princess felt but slightly indisposed, and her affection for her august Relatives was opposed to her giving up the pleasure of attending their embarkation, and thus taking advantage of every possible moment for enjoying their society, and paying them the most marked tribute of respect. But the exertion of rising at an unusually early hour, combined with breathing the chill atmosphere of an October's dawn, increased the tendency to inflammation which the original cold had generated; the depression of spirits too, caused by the departure of her beloved Uncle

and his Consort took its share in the mischief, and the Royal Highness having reached Albion House, on her return from Dover, was not again able to leave for four or five weeks, during which time the utmost anxiety prevailed in Ramsgate and its neighbourhood ; whilst the Metropolis, and more distant parts of the country, were again alarmed with a variety of rumours, such as had prevailed some years before, and which were either entirely void of foundation, or built upon a slight one. Her Royal Highness, it was said, was carried up and down stairs, and wheeled from one room to another during this illness, because her ancles were too weak to bear her ; and long after she had entirely recovered, it was announced in a public journal that “ her Royal Highness was so far convalescent as to have taken airings daily during the last fortnight, and *was able to walk to the carriage without difficulty.*” The meaning of which paragraph seems evidently to be, that it was a matter of congratulation that the Heiress Presumptive could, *with some difficulty*, walk so far as from the house to the carriage ; whereas the fact was that, at the very period at which this was written, the Duchess of Kent and the Princess were in the daily habit of driving from Albion House to the Pier, at about twelve o'clock, of promenading upon the eastern and western Piers for upwards of an hour, and then, re-entering their carriage, of extending their airings in the environs of the town for a considerable length of time, and

afterwards of walking in the country for another hour or more, seldom returning to Albion House before four o'clock. All this was known to the inhabitants of Ramsgate, and in conjunction with the bloom which again illuminated her countenance, and the elasticity of spirit with which she received and returned their constant salutations, assured them they had nothing to fear for the health, mental or bodily, of their future Sovereign ; but those who had not such opportunities of ascertaining the truth, were too apt to depend upon the erroneous impressions excited by the frequent repetitions of such paragraphs as that above cited ; and it has been matter of surprise to many, that our energetic young Queen has exhibited, since her accession to the throne, that brightness of intellect and capability of bodily exertion, which are the usual attendants upon healthy constitutions only. Long, very long, may her Majesty continue so agreeably to surprise her loyal and devoted People.

SIMPLICITY OF MANNERS.

Their Royal Highnesses now resumed that simple mode of life which had always distinguished their autumnal residence at this favourite retreat : they were accompanied by a very small retinue,

considering their exalted station ; and, throwing aside much of the cumbersome restraint and chilling ceremonial of royalty, they entered into free intercourse with the respectable resident families, and were constantly to be seen passing, almost unattended, along the public streets or parades of the principal towns of the Island, either on foot, or driving at a slow pace in pony phaetons, courteously and readily acknowledging the respectful obeisances made to them. The Princess delighted much in the piers and parades of Ramsgate and Broadstairs, and would frequently walk upon them for a couple of hours together, accompanied by one or two ladies of the household, watching the movements of the vessels in the harbour, and occasionally entering into conversation with the officers and crew belonging to them, upon the state of the shipping, a subject which, as has been before remarked, greatly interested the Princess, and to which her studies had been particularly directed, together with the naval history of the country. Her inquiries on this subject were remarked with peculiar acuteness and intelligence ; and, it need scarcely be observed were replied to, with pride and pleasure, by those to whom they were addressed. For a short time, her Royal Highness's re-appearance in public, upon her recovery from her recent illness, the intrusive and ill-mannered loyalty of some of the visitors, caused her a little annoyance ; but the attentive precautions

of the resident gentlemen of Ramsgate, soon put a stop to the inconvenience.

Their Royal Highnesses were, as usual, regular in their attendance upon Divine Service, mostly at the church of the parish in which their residence was fixed.

The greatest regularity and punctuality were required in every department of the domestic arrangements; and even when travelling, the regulations as to route and times of arrival or departure, at different places, were all previously determined on.

The Princess's studies, which had met with considerable interruption during the autumn months, were now resumed with increased avidity, and pursued with the most punctual regularity, during the whole winter—the Dean of Chester, her preceptor, Mr. J. B. Sale, and several other masters, being again in constant attendance. Her Royal Highness was at this time described by a gentleman who had the honour of occasionally dining with the illustrious party at Ramsgate, as possessing considerable conversational powers; and he added, that, apart from her rank, he considered her to be one of the most agreeable young ladies he had ever been in company with.

EXTENSIVE CHARITIES.

Opportunities were thus afforded to the visitors

and residents, not only of Ramsgate, but of the Isle of Thanet generally, of acquiring a personal knowledge of the domestic habits, amiable manners, and beneficent dispositions of the Duchess of Kent and her illustrious Daughter. The numerous charitable acts that have been performed by their Royal Highnesses, on the occasion of their periodical visits to the island, are there spoken of with much enthusiasm. The bounties of the Royal Party were felt in a variety of forms, and were the more valuable from the rigid examination which preceded them into the real circumstances of the applicants, and from the judicious manner in which they were apportioned according to the peculiar wants of the party.

On one occasion, the case of an aged female was brought under their notice, not by the poor woman herself, but by some of her friends. Sir John Conroy was commissioned to make the necessary inquiries, and was soon able to give a favourable report. The poor woman had, in early life, been connected with the stage ; but, from increasing infirmities, had been compelled to retire, having a very small pittance on which to live. By desire of their Royal Highnesses she was asked what mode of relief would be most acceptable ; the old lady replied by requesting a supply of tea and sugar ; accordingly, an abundant stock was sent to her, which lasted out the whole winter. On the return of their Royal Highnesses to the Isles in 1836, the same person ventured herself to address a suppliant

letter; her case had been forgotten, and inquiries were ordered, but were soon stopped, on its being ascertained that she was the recipient of a former bounty, and a second supply for her tea-table was sent her

Again : a Deal boatman who had gone out to assist a vessel in distress, was, by a heavy sea catching his boat, unfortunately drowned ; he left a wife and family. The disconsolate widow was friendless : but she had heard of the charitable dispositions of the Duchess of Kent and the Princess, and she determined on writing to them. She was an illiterate person, and her letters proved quite curiosities in their way, yet in them she contrived to make her tale of distress intelligible. At the request of Sir John Conroy, a gentleman of Ramsgate, who had acquaintances at Deal, made the requisite inquiries to ascertain the truth of the narration and the character of the widow. The answer was satisfactory, and their Royal Highnesses remitted a sum of money to a gentleman of Deal, of known integrity and good sense, with instructions that he should apply it in such a manner as he conceived would be most permanently beneficial to the family.

During the visit of the King and Queen of the Belgians, a fine ship was brought into the Harbour a complete wreck ; the whole party expressed much sympathy on the occasion, and liberally contributed to the relief of the crew.

The Princess, in her rural walks, was fond of entering into friendly conversation with the young children she met, and would manifest much kindness and sympathy for their juvenile cares and anxieties. If the children were poor, and it appeared that the wants of the parents were worthy of relief, the cases were not forgotten ; the kindly inquiries were followed by suitable assistance.

To the public charities of the Isle of Thanet, the illustrious Visitors have been repeated and liberal contributors. On the present visit, the Duchess of Kent caused letters to be addressed to influential gentlemen resident at Ramsgate, Margate, and Broadstairs, requesting information of all the public charities connected with those towns, their objects, and the state of their funds. This information having been obtained, the Duchess enclosed a check for £200, to Messrs. Austin and Co., bankers of Ramsgate, in a letter containing also a list of the separate charities, amongst which she desired the sum might be allotted. Her Royal Highness also granted a general permission to any of the charities to make use of her name and that of the Princess as patronesses. An additional hundred pounds was given amongst the same charities, by the Duchess and Princess, upon the close of their visit.

Neither was their bounty confined to charitable societies alone, but was extended to matters connected with the general benefit of the towns and neighbourhood ; among which may be mentioned the

organ erected by subscription in St. George's Church, Ramsgate, the Scientific and Literary Institution, and the Isle of Thanet Agricultural Association, then newly-established. To the committee of the latter, their Royal Highnesses forwarded five pounds, signifying at the same time their approval of the design of the association, the encouragement of servants and labourers, and adding that they would bestow the same sum annually, as a prize to that labourer who should be considered as having brought up, most creditably and usefully, the largest family, without receiving parochial aid.

In her dealings with the tradespeople, while on visits to the Isle of Thanet, the Duchess endeavoured so to distribute her patronage, that as far as possible, all should be benefited. Many a humble tradesman has, to his astonishment, found himself selected to send in to the Palace, an occasional supply of the articles in which he dealt.

Great care was always taken in selecting the servants for their Royal Highnesses' establishment. By command of the Duchess of Kent, inquiries were made in the neighbourhood for youths of good character, who were afterwards placed under the care of trusty servants, and educated in habits of servitude. Whilst these youths conducted themselves well, the patronage of this exemplary Mother and Daughter was never withdrawn; and as vacancies occurred, they were advanced in the royal household, or suitable situations were sought for them elsewhere.

VISIT TO NATIONAL AND INFANT SCHOOLS.

The Princess warmly patronized the various charity schools of Tunbridge Wells and Ramsgate, during her visits to those places in the autumn of 1835, not only contributing to their funds, but bestowing her time and personal attendance upon them. At Tunbridge Wells, her Royal Highness and her Mother honoured the Infant School with a visit, attended by a very small suite, and were received by the members of the committee, and the ladies patronesses, who alone were present. The business of the school commenced with the repetition of the little poem, "This is the Tunbridge Wells Infant School," with which the Princess was so much amused and pleased, that she desired to have a copy sent her. After following the children through the whole routine of their infantine studies, she still further evinced her interest in them by walking about in the playground for a considerable time, observing their sports and games; and charmed with the cleanly appearance and artless simplicity of the young ones, chatted familiarly amongst them, and even kissed several of their little rosy faces. On returning to the school-room, their Royal Highnesses conversed for some minutes

with the mistress, making many inquiries respecting the state and regulations of the schools ; and gratified the friends of the institution by entering their names in the visitors' book, with a testimony of their approbation.

On their departure, many were the infant voices which joined with those of their mature fellow subjects, in the fervent exclamation of " God bless them." On leaving Tunbridge Wells, it was announced to be the intention of their Royal Highnesses to give ten pounds annually in prizes, for the purpose of exciting emulation amongst the children of the National and Infant Schools of that and the adjacent parishes.

Amongst the handsome subscriptions of their Royal Highnesses to the various charities of Ramsgate, the National School was particularly distinguished by the munificent donation of £200 ; and still more by the special attention devoted to it by the young Victoria, who visited it frequently, herself examining, with unostentatious kindness and patient minuteness, into the advancement of the different classes in the simple studies allotted to them : and here also her Royal Highness, in taking leave of her favourite establishment, placed in the hands of its managers a small extra sum of money from her own private resources, to be expended in purchasing suitable rewards for the most industrious and deserving scholars, during the ensuing year. When the Princess was leaving Ramsgate, she was deeply

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affected by the unexpected appearance of these children, lining the streets through which her carriage was to pass, dressed in the neat and clean costume of the school, decorated with ribbons, and curtesying a grateful farewell to their beloved Patroness.

THE PRINCE CONSORT OF PORTUGAL.

The Princess and her Mother returned to their apartments in Kensington Palace, early in the spring, preparatory to a London season of unusual gaiety, consequent partly upon the visit of the young Prince, the affianced husband of the Queen of Portugal, with his father, the Duke Ferdinand, and his brother, the Prince Augustus of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, to their relations in England, prior to the departure of the bridegroom for his ultimate destination at Lisbon. It is impossible to pass over this matrimonial alliance without remarking upon the extraordinary favours which fortune continues to shower on the house of Coburg, and which in the course of twenty years, has raised its members from a situation of comparative mediocrity in the scale of princes, to the highest alliances and positions to which the ambition of man can aspire; placing crowns upon the heads of some, and intimately con-

necting the whole with all that is powerful and illustrious in Europe. The reigning Duke of ~~Saxe-~~Coburg-Gotha, still in the prime of life, has ~~not~~ only added almost incalculably to his hereditary dominions and revenues, but, at the present moment, finds himself uncle to the Queens of England and Portugal, brother to the King of Belgium, and thence nearly allied to the Royal Family of France; as well as, by his own marriage, and that of his numerous sisters, to the house of Wurtemberg, and to almost all the minor Princes of Germany; to say nothing of his connections with the monarchs of Russia and Prussia, to whom he has been bound for a long series of years in ties of the closest friendship, or of that acme of elevation which may be even yet in store for his immediate descendants. However, if fortune and the force of events have been greatly instrumental in this accumulation of success, it may, on the other hand, be *mainly* attributed to the prudence and personal merits of these august personages;—the virtues and amiable qualities of the Duchess of Kent led to the alliance, to the results of which the whole British empire looked forward for many years with pleasing anticipation, and which is at length crowned by the accession of her august Daughter to the imperial throne. A similarly high character, securing to him the confidence of Europe, placed a crown upon the head of Leopold, which, perhaps, no man of less talent and prudence could have maintained, exposed as he was to

all the hazards and difficulties that assailed the first months of his reign, and have been recently renewed, even with an increase of threatened danger. It was to the distinguished endowments of the young Prince Ferdinand also, that he was indebted for the choice which has placed him on the throne of Portugal in the quality of Consort, and secured it in hereditary succession to his children. His Royal Highness is the oldest son of the second branch of the ducal house of Coburg-Gotha, and nephew to the reigning Duke, the King of the Belgians, and the Duchess of Kent ; he is remarkable in a high degree for his personal beauty ; his figure at this period, though slight, from his extreme youth, was well-proportioned, dignified, and graceful, in height about five feet nine inches ; his features are accurately formed, rather feminine than decided in expression, arising probably from the extreme delicacy of his complexion ; when in conversation, however, his countenance lights up with a sparkling animation that delights the beholder. According to the best information, his Royal Highness's mental qualities are by no means inferior to his personal. He is an excellent linguist ; and, when in England, evinced the greatest curiosity and interest in every detail respecting the country, with the history and laws of which he was intimately acquainted.

The three Princes arrived at the Duchess of Kent's apartments in Kensington Palace, in the forenoon of Thursday, the 17th of March, 1836 ; and at

four o'clock of the same day, proceeded, in company with the Duchess and Princess, to Windsor Castle, on a visit to their Majesties. A magnificent state dinner of ninety covers was served to an illustrious party in St. George's Hall, at half-past seven, when the Queen entered the apartment, leaning on the arm of the young Prince Ferdinand, preceded by Sir William Freemantle, and followed by the King leading the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria. Their Majesties took their seats at the centre of the table, the band playing "God save the King," till the whole of the company were seated. At about ten o'clock in the evening, the guests began to arrive, and passed by the state entrance up the new stair-case to the Waterloo Chamber and Ball-room, the former of which apartments was prepared for dancing, Weippert's band being stationed in the Galleries. Shortly after the Queen, attended by her suite, and the visitors who had had the honour of dining in St. George's Hall, entered the Waterloo Chamber, and dancing commenced; it was continued with great spirit and animation till one o'clock, when supper was announced. At half-past one their Majesties withdrew, but dancing was afterwards resumed, and the company did not separate till three o'clock. The following morning, the Queen and her illustrious visitors witnessed the turning out of the royal stag, at Riching's Park; and in the evening another superb dinner was given to a still larger party than on the preceding day,

covers being laid in St. George's Hall for upwards of one hundred.

During the next fortnight, the Princes were involved in a perpetual round of entertainments ; the mornings were devoted to public concerts and exhibitions, and the evenings to dinner-parties, dress-assemblies, and balls, a series of which were given by the Royal Duchess, in honour of the visit of her Brother and Nephews. The youthful Cousins entered with great spirit into the gratification afforded by these splendid *fêtes*, which drew together all the beauty, grace, and intelligence of the British court ; the balls were always opened by the Princess Victoria with her Cousin of Portugal, and she afterwards honoured many of the young nobility with her hand. On one of these occasions, the Duke of Devonshire introduced a new dance, which highly pleased the gay and spirited party who figured in it. The opera was also visited on those evenings when the Royal Party were otherwise disengaged. The appearance of the Princess at one of the Vocal Concerts at the Hanover Square Rooms during the period of amusement, was thus commented upon by a journal of the day :—" The Princess Victoria appeared in excellent health and spirits ; she was dressed with her usual tasteful simplicity ; and her aspect and deportment were most engaging and interesting. It is gratifying to observe this young Princess, whose future life is so closely connected with the welfare of her country, preparing herself

for the duties of her lofty and deeply responsible station, not only by assiduous attention to the cultivation of her mind, but by the anxiety she shows to make herself acquainted with the nation over whose government she may be called upon, under the course of Providence, to preside. In the pursuit of this object she has visited many parts of the country, taken care to inform herself of our National Institutions, and participated (as in the present instance) in the intellectual amusements of the public. These things she has done under the guidance of her exemplary Parent ; but the manner in which she does them shows that they accord with her own feelings and disposition."

On the departure of the Prince of Portugal for Portsmouth, where he embarked for Lisbon, he was accompanied by his Father and Brother, also by his Aunt and Cousin, as far as Claremont, where they passed a short time together, whilst the Princess pointed out the varied beauties of this favourite and lovely spot to the illustrious strangers with evident delight. After taking an affectionate leave of each other, the Royal Party separated, the Duchess and her Daughter returning to Kensington Palace.

THE LONDON SEASON.

The amusements of the season were now enjoyed by our novice in dissipation with greater modera-

tion, although the variety of Foreign Princes who flocked during the whole of the spring to our shores, for the purpose, it was currently asserted, of courting the fair Western Star, whose influence was now gradually enlightening the horizon, and each of whom was to be entertained and *fêted*, caused a great deal more of bustle and movement in the gay and fashionable world than had been experienced for many years past, and proved very unpropitious to the resumption of her Royal Highnesses's studies, which had been laid aside during the recent visit of her Relatives at the palace. In the month of May, too, and prior to the Princess's birth-day, another importation of Cousins arrived from Germany; the reigning Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, with his two Sons, paid their first visit to their Royal Relatives in England: and though the occasion did not call for so much of public ceremonial and bridal rejoicing as the former, still there was so much to be shown to the new-comers, and so much hospitality to be offered them, not only at Kensington Palace, but at St. James's and at Windsor, as well as by every Member of the Royal Family, in all of which the Princess Victoria was included, that she was now scarcely less occupied by gaiety and pleasure than she had been during the Prince of Portugal's residence in London. But amongst all these amusements, there was one exhibition which she witnessed, now for the first time, and which afforded her as much delight as it had

done, twenty-two years before, to the beneficent Alexander. It was the anniversary meeting of the charity children in the Metropolitan Cathedral. A sublime sight, calculated to inspire the liveliest emotions of piety towards God, and of love towards mankind. The effect of five thousand infant voices filling the noble cupola, and raised in hymns of praise and thanksgiving to the Giver of all good, the Creator, the Redeemer, the Sanctifier, the Holy and ever-blessed Trinity, whose gifts are bestowed without respect of persons, whose care is as open to supplication from the lowliest as from the most exalted; is, even to those who are accustomed to the sound, almost overpowering; how deeply then must the whole scene have impressed the young and tender heart of the Princess, when newly presented to her eye and to her ear in the height of its external magnificence and moral beauty; with their usual precision their Royal Highnesses arrived in state at the south door of the Cathedral, a few minutes before twelve o'clock, accompanied by the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha and the young Princes, his sons; and on alighting from their carriages they were conducted, by the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, and other City Officers, together with the Committee of the Charity, to a pew which had been set apart for their accommodation, and covered with scarlet cloth. After the service for the day, the Archbishop of Armagh preached an admirable sermon from the 6th chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel, the 22nd and

23rd verses ;—“ The light of the body is the eye : if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness !” At the conclusion of the sermon their Royal Highnesses ascended to the organ loft, from whence the *coup d'œil* was exceedingly imposing, and this mark of their interest in the affecting spectacle was received with a universal expression of gratification by the thousands who occupied the vast body of the church. The children of the Ladies' Charity School, of which their Royal Highnesses were the patronesses, being seated immediately in front of the organ, turned round to pay their respects to the Royal Party, who condescendingly spoke to some of the girls, the Princess shaking hands with many of them, and expressing herself much pleased with their appearance and conduct. Contrary to custom on such occasions, the day was uncommonly fine, and the sight was truly interesting. On leaving the Cathedral, their Royal Highnesses having, with their usual munificence, subscribed £50 to the collection, proceeded with their party to the Mansion House, amidst the loud huzzas of the immense crowd which had assembled round the Cathedral, and gradually extended itself along the whole length of Cheapside awaiting their arrival at the seat of civic hospitality. At a quarter before three they reached the Mansion House, where

the Lord Mayor, Sheriffs, several of the Aldermen, and their ladies, with many of the City Officers, received them on the front steps of the building. On alighting from their carriage, her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent took the arm of the Lord Mayor, and the Princess that of Alderman Scholey, and were conducted by Mr. Goldham, the master of the ceremonies, to the drawing-room, at the door of which they were met by the Lady Mayoress. Their Royal Highnesses shortly afterwards removed to the dining-room to receive the Aldermen and their Ladies, who were severally presented to them, and afterwards retired to a very elegant repast prepared for them in the long parlour. The Royal Party returned to the drawing-room, where they partook of a cold collation, in company with the Lord Mayor, Lady Mayoress, and a large party of distinguished Citizens, who were all pleasingly impressed with the condescension of the Duchess, and charmed with the fresh, healthful beauty, and the frank, unaffected manners of the young Princess, who entered freely into conversation, and expressed herself in enthusiastic terms of delight at the scene she had just witnessed. The Duchess of Kent sat at the left and the Princess Victoria at the right of the Lord Mayor; next to the Princess sat the Lady Mayoress, and the venerable Mother of the Chief Magistrate, to both of whom the Princess and the Duchess constantly addressed themselves. The Lord Mayor drank the healths of his illustrious Guests, and welcomed

them to the mansion-house, in warm and respectful terms. They returned thanks in the most gracious manner; the Duchess expressing her high gratification at the reception she and her Daughter had met within the hospitable walls of the City. The Royal Visitors then accompanied the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress to the Egyptian Hall, and having viewed and admired that noble apartment, they took leave apparently much pleased with their visit. The same form which was observed at the entrance of their Royal Highnesses was gone through at their departure, and the crowds outside hailed their reappearance in the most enthusiastic manner.

The juvenile ball with which their Majesties had hitherto celebrated the anniversary of the Princess Victoria's birth was now laid aside, her Royal Highness having completed her seventeenth year, and a full state ball substituted for it. This was rendered particularly attractive by the presence of the Prince of Orange and his two eldest Sons, of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, with his Sons, and several other foreign Princes, with all of whom, as well as with her Cousin of Cambridge, the Princess successively danced.

At Mr. Sale's Concert, which took place a few days previously, a cantata was introduced of Mr. Balfe's composition, the words of which were addressed to the Princess Victoria, in anticipation of her birth-day.

CHORUS.

Now doth the Spring her revels bring,
 To cottage hearth, and palace hall;
 And like the birds the minstrels sing
 In merry chorus, joy to all.
 Come ladies bright, and nobles gay,
 And keep a courtly holiday.

SOLO.

Joy to the Hope of this fair clime,
 The name beloved by young and old;
 For her may stern and hoary Time
 Measure his flight with sands of gold:
 And wear no silver on her hair,
 And trace no furrows on her brow,
 And all the artless gladness spare
 Which makes her youth so radiant now.

CHORUS.

Now doth the Spring, &c.

SOLO.

Hush for awhile: let deeper thought
 Claim yet a moment in our glee,
 As hearts by faithful reverence taught,
 Fair Royal Maiden, pray for thee;

That He who rules the hearts of kings,
May strew with blessings all thy way,
And crown thee with the lot that brings
Content, and peace, and length of days.

CHORUS.

Now doth the Spring, &c.

SOLO.

Good Faries round thy cradle crept,
To grace with precious gifts thy mind ;
A mother's love, that ne'er has slept,
Fast round thy heart its cords hath twined ;
And wealth has toiled thine eye to please
With all its treasures, rare and gay ;
But loyal hearts may match with these,
And such we offer in our lay.

ROYAL SUITORS.

Not a word has yet been hinted throughout this memoir of any matrimonial views entertained for the Heiress Presumptive to the British throne, either by her guardians or by those illustrious individuals who might have severally flattered themselves with a

chance of becoming ultimately the object of her choice. It must not, however, be therefore supposed that this interesting and important subject had been overlooked by any of the parties concerned; far from it—there is reason to believe it has formed matter of deep and earnest consideration amongst the august relatives of the Royal Minor, and that it was early brought under the contemplation of the young Princess herself, who, it is even highly probable, has long ago made up her mind upon it. Be this as it may, the world at least has not been idle in the matter of speculation upon a subject not only fraught with real interest, but highly favourable also to that description of court gossip which is the most amusing of all topics to a certain class of British subjects. Rumour has indeed been busy almost from her Royal Highness' infancy in assigning a husband to her, sometimes from the ranks of the European Princes, and sometimes from those of the English Nobility. A brief abstract of the paragraphs of this nature, as they successively followed each other in the London Journals, will convey the most correct idea of the extent to which the public mind was bent upon this delicate and interesting subject.

“The supposed cause of the visit of his Royal Highness, the Duke of Cumberland to England*, would, if it were more than a mere sup-

* His Royal Highness, accompanied by his Son Prince George, arrived in this country in April, 1828, on a visit of some months.

position, create pain and disgust. It is said, among other things, to be the negociation of a marriage between two children. Nature revolts at the proposition ;—and let us, let the people of England, still adhere to Nature. In barbarous and brutal times it was not uncommon to unite infants of high birth by what may be called a *pre-natural*, if not a *preter-natural*, marriage ; but the age of barbarism, we should suppose, is extinct, and the sacred ritual of our church is totally incompatible with any application to an union such as that which is rumoured or insinuated. Our last Princess chose for herself. The union was not long, and it led to no results ; but it was not unhappy to the parties, we believe, whilst it lasted, and to the people it imparted unmingled satisfaction. In proportion to that satisfaction would now be the indignation, if any expedient of an infantine union or betrothment were avowed. We trust, therefore, this matter will sink into oblivion for some eight or ten good years to come ; and then—aye, but who knows what may happen then.”—*Times*, April 30, 1828.

“ It is rumoured and confidently believed in the highest circles, that Prince George, Son of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, will speedily be betrothed to his royal Cousin, the Princess Victoria, daughter of the late Duke of Kent ; the Prince is a fine healthy boy, in his tenth year,

and the Princess, a lovely child, within a few days of the same age."—*Watchman*, May 4, 1828.

These and other paragraphs of a similar tendency called forth, some months afterwards, the following remarks :—

" When a further grant was some years since applied for, on behalf of the Duke of Cumberland, on the ground of educating his Son, Prince George, it was made a condition of the grant that the young Prince should be brought over to this country to be educated, and this not having been the case, the country has a right to presume that no part of this new grant has ever been issued. Most people imagined, when the young Prince was brought to England this summer, it was for the purpose of fulfilling his implied engagement ; and the marked affection with which he was received by his Majesty, served to strengthen the idea. On a sudden, however, the Prince and his Father have returned to Germany; and the foreign journals announce their arrival at Berlin, in good health. While here, a ridiculous story was trumped up, of an infantine affiancing between the Prince and his juvenile Cousin the Princess Victoria ;—an idea which we ridiculed at the time, and for which we have no doubt there never was a shadow of foundation. The young Prince's approach to the throne is certainly, for the present at least, exceedingly remote ; and, perhaps,

under all circumstances, it is quite as well that he should not, by being placed here for education, have ideas brought uppermost into his mind which may never be realized, especially while, by avoiding it, the country saves £6000 a year."—*Morning Herald*, September 4, 1828.

"The Duke of Orleans* is expected here next week, avowedly for the purpose of informing the mind of his son by an inspection of our institutions, &c., &c. ; but also, it is said, to endeavour to make a matrimonial arrangement for him with the Princess Victoria. The young man is very handsome, and is said to ride, and dance, and fence, and play the agreeable better than any young French Noble of his age."—*Morning Journal*, May 6, 1829.

It was about this time, and shortly after the passing of the Catholic Bill, that the letter addressed to the Duke of Wellington by John Litton Crosbie, A. M., Minister of Sydenham, Kent, and Chaplain to his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, appeared in the *Morning Journal*, and was the cause of an action for libel against that journal, whereby large damages were decreed. The subjoined extract from the letter contains that portion of the libel which related to the Heiress Presumptive to the throne, and upon which the greatest stress was laid in the indictment.

* The present King of the French.

“ One word more. There is not a sensible man in the kingdom, who believes the flippant and well-contrived report that your Highness’ eldest Son is about to be married to the accomplished Daughter of your Physician. Trust me that we know your Highness too well. Long, long since have you aspired to a higher prize for the Heir of Apsley Palace. Do you understand me, Duke ?”

In the course of the following year, we again find reference to Prince George of Cumberland.

“ The French have a ready way of settling matters, which persons of other countries regard as difficult, or as depending upon circumstances over which they have no control. The *Quotidienne* of Friday assures us that every thing is arranged for the union of Prince George and the Princess Victoria, and the authority is that of the young Lady herself, who, says the *Quotidienne*, at a ball which took place two years ago at Carlton House, in reply to some remarks about her future crown, said, ‘ Well, if I am queen, Prince George will be king.’ It is impossible not to admire the gravity with which the French journalist affects to consider the remark of a young lady, of nine years of age, as conclusive on a subject of such a description.”—*Morning Post*, June 1, 1230.

Next, in point of date, arises the preposterous

rumour, originating also in the French papers, and dated,

“ Paris, June 8, 1830.—Several journals have spoken of a plan for a marriage between Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, and his Niece, the daughter of the Duke of Kent. The *Temps* recurs to this subject to-day. Such an alliance is impossible. Marriages between uncles and nieces are offensive to English manners, and expressly prohibited by law.” *Morning Herald*, June 12, 1830.

“ Brussels, April 16, 1833.—Among other rumours of the day, the most accredited is the negociation for the marriage of the Princess Victoria with the eldest Son of the Prince of Orange. The court party have been busily occupied in contradicting the rumour, and diplomatically hint that the intended journey of the Duke of Orleans to England is intimately connected with the Princess.”—*Morning Herald*, April 20th, 1833.

“ The concourse of young Princes arrived and arriving during the present week in the Metropolis, has excited some speculation amongst the gossips, and, pending the Derby, sets a few bets going in St. James’s Street. Were the Heiress Presumptive a few years older, it might possibly be conjectured that their Highnesses, Royal and Serene, were bent upon an errand similar to that which attracted the Prince of Morocco to Belmont. But our own fair

and illustrious Portia being still too young to admit the influence of personal graces, or personal homage, it is to be concluded that the devotions of the young Duke are directed to a political shrine. The Carlists who protest that Louis-Philip would suffer his Son and heir to become a Mahometan, in order to insure his succession to the throne of England, now that the aspect of affairs in France assumes so gloomy a cast, openly assert that overtures have been already made to the British government of a very peculiar nature. This we know to be false, and all the world must be equally well aware, that for a Son of France to abjure the Catholic faith, would be synonymous to abdication for himself and all his house, even to the remotest generation. After all, it is absurd that the young Duke of Orleans, whose early years were all passed in the environs of London, may not indulge his inclination for a lounge in Hyde Park, a debate in either House or a galloppe at Almack's, without giving rise to exaggerated reports. We know not what may be the business of *the Duke of Brunswick*, but the business of the Duke of Orleans is clearly pleasure."—*Court Journal*, 4th May, 1833.

“ The *Neckar Gazette* has the following, dated Hanover :—‘ A project is on foot for the marriage of the eldest Son of the Prince of Orange with the Princess Victoria, Presumptive Heiress of England, who is to receive Belgium for her dower, by which

means King Leopold will have an opportunity of retiring with his young Consort to England. But the Prince de Talleyrand has caused the Dukes of Orleans and Nemours to come to London, in order to present them to the Princess, thinking that her Royal Highness might prefer one of the Sons of Louis-Philip to the Grandson of King William."—*Morning Herald*, May 11, 1833.

"One of the flying rumours of the day is that the illustrious Guest who honours the Capital with his presence, is charged to propose a royal hymeneal alliance between his brother the Duke of Nemours, and the Princess Victoria."—*Court Journal*, 25th May, 1833.

"We understand that the real cause of the young Duke of Brunswick's visit to this country has some reference to the future happiness of the Princess Victoria. There is an amiable quietness about his proceedings in striking contrast with the lionizing of the Duke of Orleans; to be sure there is some difference between the ages of the Duke and the young Princess; but a few years are counted nothing in affairs of the heart."—*New Bell's Weekly Messenger*, June 2, 1833.

"There are various reports as to the Prince of Orange's expected visit to this country; and amongst others, a matrimonial speculation for one of his

Sons, with a young and illustrious Princess, has been freely spoken of : we have reason to believe that the principal object of his Royal Highness' coming here, is to place one, if not two of his Sons in one of our Universities."—*Morning Herald*, June 19, 1833.

At about this period also, Tait's Magazine put out an article, tending to ridicule the numerous matrimonial offers which it was reported were successively presented to the Princess, who had but just completed her fourteenth year. It says:—

“ A very tender subject is now beginning to agitate the sensibility of the weavers of political romance. The Heiress Presumptive is advancing towards the age when Princesses are wooed and kingdoms won. The elevation in life of Prince Leopold, Cadet of Saxe-Coburg-Saalfield, already creates a stir among the microscopic Highnesses of Germany. When Lady Keith, now the wife of Count Flahault, and then Miss Mercer-Elphinstone, obliged the young Saxon Captain and Serene Highness with a letter of introduction to Princess Charlotte of England, very little could she have anticipated the time when King Leopold of Belgium would extend his royal hand for her to kiss. But the lesson has not been thrown away either upon her Ladyship or the gentle Gothic Sovereignities which so closely resemble the Marquisate of Carrabas ; and there has

not been such a commotion among the tiny regalities of the Rhine since the crusade of Walter the Pennyless. Scarcely was it known on the Elbe, that the young Prince of Cumberland had inherited the physical visual infirmity of his Grandfather, and that circumstances might render it difficult to bestow a preference upon the Son of the Duke of Cambridge, than the Nassaus, &c., began to number their tribes, and to calculate upon the personal attractions of their junior branches. The old women of France persuaded themselves that the Duke of Orleans, like Paolo di Rimini, was gone a wooing for his brother; and the black Brunswickers asserted that Duke William would shortly return with white favors. Since the days of Portia and Bolmant, never was there seen such a congress of suitors.

"Yet the question has its serious side. On the event of this frivolous wooing—of this preference to be accorded by a child—how much of the future destinies of England hang suspended! Is there no hope of amendment in that relic of barbarism, our Royal Marriage Bill, which renders the interests of Great Britain tributary to those of the Kingdom of Hanover!—a bill which legislates for England as for a fief of the empire! For many years past the most popular of his Majesty's brothers has been the husband of an amiable woman, the daughter of an Irish Earl, without obtaining the aid of parliament in the legalization of a marriage, lawful in the eye of Heaven; and now, in defiance of the spirit of the

times, some high and mighty transparency, formed in the schools of Jena, Berlin, or Gottingen, ignorant of our language, and insensible of the spirit of our constitution, will probably be imported, duty free, as a government bargain, to receive the hand of the daughter of the Duke of Kent, and the inheritance of our ancient Monarchy. We own we never regarded with a friendly eye the cousinly alliance pointed out by the partiality of Tories, and now it appears unaccomplishable. The security of the succession demands an early marriage for the Heiress Presumptive—a marriage to be solemnized at a period when the two Princes George will, we trust, be pursuing their studies at one of our National Universities. A boy and girl on the throne, would, we conceive, throw a more mischievous measure of power into the hands of favorites and family connections than even the union of the future Queen of England with one of her distinguished subjects.”

Again a weekly paper observes :—“ It is hinted that one of the objects of the Earl of Durham’s mission to Paris is to set in motion set of circumlocutory intrigues by which a Prince of the house of Wurtemberg is to be introduced to the Princess Victoria, with a view to the control of the throne of these realms. At the very threshold of such an attempt, in the name of the People of England, we protest against it ! We have too much faith in the

good sense of the young and amiable Princess, (whom may God bless) to suppose that she would pass by her two accomplished and English Cousins Cumberland and Cambridge. But if she desires a foreign lord, let her take the young Prince of Orange. We owe a debt to that house for the deeds of former days—we owe a return for the deeds of the present time. She is an English girl, brought up amongst us with an English heart, and English feelings—if she marries, let her call to her affections the descendant of that William of Nassau, upon whom England, in her hour of peril, did not rely in vain.”—*Sunday Paper*, April, 6, 1834.

“ Our arrivals from Germany mention that a marriage has been determined on between her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria, Heiress Presumptive to the throne of Great Britain, and his Royal Highness Prince William Alexander Constantine, the second son of his Royal Highness the Prince of Orange. This alliance would be the prelude of the most intimate and friendly relations between the Netherlands and England. It would enhance, if possible, the splendour of the house of Orange, which is already so closely allied with the house of Brandenburg and the family of Russia.’ (*Messenger de Gand.*) Our Belgian correspondent must have very early intelligence, as our advices from Germany, and our information in this country,

have left us quite in the dark as to the proposed union."—*Morning Post*, December 16, 1834.

"It is said that the marriage of the two eldest sons of the Prince of Orange with the Princesses of England and Russia is definitively concluded. *Journal de Flanders*."—*Morning Post*, January 9, 1835.

"The Prince of Saxe-Coburg is spoken of as the probable husband, either of the Queen of Portugal, or the Princess Victoria, the Heiress to the throne of England.—(*Gazette de France*.) As his Serene Highness is a Roman Catholic, the laws of England are at present opposed to the latter arrangement; but there is no saying what Mr. O'Connell's influence with the Reform Ministers and the reformed Parliament may yet effect on the subject."—*Albion*, October 9, 1835.

"Munich, January 15th.—The report of the marriage of King Otho of Greece with the Heiress of the English Crown is more and more confirmed.

"It is hardly possible to conjecture how this odd report got into circulation."—*Globe*, January 29th, 1836.

"It is rumoured in the highest circles that the visit to this country of the prince of Orange and

his Sons* is connected with some domestic matters of great public interest, which involves the consummation of the happiness of two exalted and highly interesting Personages.—*Court Journal*, May 23rd, 1836.

“The following curious communication is published in Galignani’s Messenger of Saturday. We have only to observe that we are quite in the dark as to the statement put forth by our Parisian Contemporary. A variety of rumours have been in circulation on the subject for some days past, but have only been considered as the idle gossip of the Town.

‘The following appears in the Messenger of last night, on the authority of a London Correspondent. The statement may be true, though we believe it to be otherwise. The London Journals seldom allow the Correspondent of a Foreign Journal to anticipate them in intelligence of such interest, and they are wholly silent upon the subject:—On Saturday last, M. Dedel, in the name of the King of the Netherlands, made a formal demand of the hand of the Princess Victoria, for the eldest Son of the Prince of Orange. The King of England, who, as well as the Queen, is personally in favour of this demand, consulted his council upon it, who, persisting in the intention of leaving to the young Princess the free choice of a husband, communicated

* See Page 436.

the demand to the Duchess of Kent, on the day before yesterday. This Princess replied that her Daughter had already decided in favour of the eldest Son of the Duke of Saxe-Coburg. This young Prince, as well as his brother, is distinguished for his understanding and good conduct as much as by his external advantages. The world will approve the resolution of the Princess Victoria. As soon as the answer of the Duchess of Kent was known, couriers were sent off to different parts of the Continent. The marriage will not be delayed ; and the formalities which, according to the laws of etiquette, must precede the union of a Prince and Princess, are being executed.' The *Courier Francais* also quotes the above story, with some additions."—*Morning Post*, June, 13, 1836.

"The German Princes still continue to pour into this country, and the little Princess is regularly besieged. There is a regular communication kept up amongst the whole race ; and when it is found this one has no chance of success, another is sent for. We find that his Highness the Prince of Solms-Braunfels has passed through the Hague on his way to London. We hope that some public-spirited Member will draw the attention of Parliament to the subject of this German confederation."—*Sunday Paper*, June 19, 1836.

"It is rumoured that the two rival suitors for

the highest and fairest hand in the kingdom have returned home without making any durable impression upon the heart of the interesting Lady in question."—*Morning Herald*, August 9, 1836.

Here may be closed, for the present, this list of dubious and uncertain rumours, to which have been added, since the Queen's accession, a variety of others equally unauthenticated. It is observable, however, that in the midst of these latter, glimpses occasionally appear bearing the marks of truth, and seeming to confirm the report so circumstantially stated in Galignani's Messenger of the 11th of June; and the belief that her Majesty has actually engaged herself to one of her Cousins of the protestant branch of the House of Coburg has gradually gathered strength. But her Majesty has declared her intention of not entering the bonds of wedlock until she has completed her twenty-first year; for another twelvemonth, therefore, her loyal subjects must wait for the gratification of their curiosity upon a matter so interesting and of such vital importance to the nation at large: meanwhile the Royal choice has had ample scope, as there is scarcely an unmarried Prince, of any thing like a suitable age in Christendom, who has not offered personal homage to the Virgin Queen, either since she has ascended the throne of her ancestors, or prior to that period.

INCREASING POPULARITY.

The popularity of the young Princess had been rapidly upon the increase since she had been placed in the interesting position of Heiress Presumptive to the throne of these realms. The English people, noted for their loyalty and personal attachment to their sovereign and his family, are perhaps also particularly distinguished for bestowing a more than common share of that attachment upon the immediate successor of the reigning monarch. In the present instance too, many causes combined to render the Princess an object of peculiar regard ;—her sex—her tender age—the excellent education she was known to be receiving under the superintendence of her exemplary Mother—and, above all, the recollection of those hopes and affections which had been so suddenly and sadly blighted, by the untimely death of the still fondly-remembered Princess Charlotte. Victoria, then, rising as it were from the newly-closed tomb of her illustrious Cousin, centred in herself all that “love of millions,” which had been so vainly lavished on her predecessor. The custom of drinking her Royal Highness’s health at public dinners, immediately after that of the King, had now become universal, and many were the

poetic effusions which graced the cup dedicated to her honour. The two subjoined specimens are selected from them as amongst the best, and as having met with much favour from the public.

VICTORIA,

A SONG FOR ALL PARTIES.

Fair Daughter of England, well proud may'st thou be,
Of the shouts that arise with the cup fill'd to thee :
No echos are they of lip-homage alone,
'Tis the heart of a Nation that calls thee its own—
The voice of a People, who feel that thy name,
Presages a future, well worthy the fame,
That for ages hath followed—through storm and through
shine,
(God grant it may ever)—their banner and thine.

“Victoria.”

Victoria! Oh in thy name is a spell,
All discord to banish, all faction to quell :
And rally the valiant, the wise, and the good,
Round the throne that, as yet, hath each tempest withstood.

That throne—shall it ever to ruin be hurled,
On which anchored so long the best hopes of the world?
No! brightly beside it arises thy star,
And our *hope* is in *peace*, as our shout was in war,

“Victoria.”

VICTORIA, THE HOPE OF THE THRONE.

Written by W. James Thompson.

All hail to the heart-stirring toast we have crowned,
Our country's good genius to name.
For none ever read Britain's annals but found
Victoria and England the same!
And since to our past famous Queens the bright days
Of Raleigh and Marlborough were known,
Future ages shall add to their triumphs the blaze
Of Victoria! the Hope of the Throne.

A cup for each letter a name to combine,
The Romans were wont to bestow;
But Victoria's too pure to be writ but in wine;—
Too lasting to fade with its glow.
Her gifts and her virtue united engage,
That her fame shall forever be known;
And the brightest of lines on posterity's page,
Be Victoria! the Pride of the Throne.

RESIDENCE AT CLAREMONT.

Much had been said, during the spring and summer of this year, relative to the intention of their Royal Highnesses to make a tour in Scotland during the autumn ; and many of the nobility had commenced elaborate preparations for the reception of the August Visitors ; the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland in particular looked forward to the accomplishment of their Royal Highness' long-promised visit to them. But again the arrival of the King of the Belgians in England deferred this projected journey, till the season was too far advanced to permit it to be undertaken. The Duchess and the Princess therefore took up their abode at Claremont in the middle of August, and resided there, with the exception of six weeks, which they spent at their favourite Ramsgate, until February. In the month of September King Leopold joined them, and remained about three weeks, in company with his Sister and Niece, at his beautiful English seat, which, it was very generally understood, he intended formally to make over to the latter, as soon as she had completed her eighteenth year. Already, indeed, the Mother and Daughter domesticated most agreeably in its retirement, spending much time during the winter, whenever the weather permitted, in the gar-

dens and pleasure-grounds ; and in the green and hot-houses here, the Princess's botanical taste had full scope, for the collection of the King is rare and costly : here indeed, is the nursery for the gardens of Lacken, which have been entirely laid out by Mr. M'Intosh, the superintendent of his Majesty's grounds at Claremont. In the neighbourhood also of this princely demesne the youthful Heiress now became more generally known, and proportionally beloved. Esher and its vicinity was indeed, during this winter, the scene of her beneficence and charity ; she frequently herself carried comfort and consolation to the poor, the sick, and the infirm ; and many are the cottages, the owners of which delight to tell, have been gladdened by the presence of the Queen of England. Her Majesty may, perhaps, occasionally look back with regret to these days of unsophisticated enjoyment ; yet how incalculably is her sphere of usefulness extended ! If she cannot now personally administer to the individual necessities of the poor and needy, how beneficially may the simplicity of her character act upon the complicated machine of government, and how may her benevolence be enlarged in considering that, not a village, but a widely-extended empire, is now depending, for its moral as well as physical improvement, upon her vigilant and energetic guardianship. May He, whose guiding grace alone can conduct her safely through the arduous undertaking, be ever with her : may his Holy Spirit di-

rect her in all her ways ; that, under her lengthened reign, our church may flourish, our revenues revive, and our beautiful country experience the best blessings of the Divine protection.

THE EIGHTEENTH BIRTH-DAY.

That May morn which was to usher in the eighteenth birth-day of the Presumptive Heiress of England, was long looked for with eager hope and grateful anticipation—not simply amongst a party, but throughout the rank of the people at large—not exclusively in the elevated circle surrounding the Palace, but generally in every district of the Nation; for amongst all classes and parties, all ages and either sex, the majority of the Princess of the land was hailed with a fond and generous trust, with emotions of loyal and affectionate attachment. It dawned, at length, in beauty and in gladness: and on every side, in city and suburb, in town and country, in public and private, in village and in vestry, the notes of hope, and joy, and affection, burst in musical concord upon the ear, as it were the united voice of a whole nation, welcoming and greeting, in every variety of form, the lovely spring-time of the accomplished Heiress of “ Merry England.” And merry England well might it be deemed

for one bright day at least ; for few occasions of national festivity have ever called forth so cordial and general an emotion—so deep and undivided an interest. Even the joyous and enthusiastic poetry of L. E. L. did not invest the occasion with any rainbow hue, or brilliancy of promise, which was not fairly its own. The addresses of congratulation, the tributes of praise, the honours and welcomes, the respectful offerings and affectionate greetings, the votive wreaths and birth-day presents, which awaited the Princess in every possible shape—proofs irrefragable of that universal attachment which had been deepening and extending with the years of its youthful object—were but the outward and visible signs of a sentiment much too general to be thus expressed ; and could no more tell the tale of fervent greeting, than the joy of a nation's heart can be fully interpreted by the ringing of bells and the waving of flags. Innumerable tributes of pride and affection were openly presented ; and many welcome assurances met the ear of the Princess ; but infinitely greater in number, and equally sincere, were the prayers, the wishes, and the congratulations which were poured forth on that day, in the privacy of the closet or in the social family meeting, without the smallest chance of attracting either the royal or public notice. May the celebration of this auspicious festival be but the herald of even more triumphant celebrations yet to come—when the blossom shall have ripened into fruit—the fair promise into

rich reality—the blooming spring into the golden harvest !

Her Royal Highness was awoke to the recollection of the joyful anniversary by a serenade of vocal music, accompanied by wind instruments, under the windows of her bed-chamber. At six o'clock the gates of Kensington Gardens were thrown open to the public; and very shortly afterwards, that portion of the gardens nearest the Palace was thronged with an assemblage of well-dressed persons, principally ladies. Precisely at seven the serenade commenced with the following quartet, written by Mr. Cornwall Baron Wilson, and most beautifully set to music by G. H. Rodwell, Esq. :—

“ Wake, Royal Maiden, from soft repose !
 As Zephyr awakes the unfolding rose,
 So we, like the bards of the olden day,
 Would greet thee with music and minstrel lay.
 Oh, fear not our numbers shall break on thy slumbers,
 To sing of the graces that smiled on thy birth—
 More fragrantly breathing, the flowers we are wreathing,
 Shall emblem thy virtues and garland thy worth.
 Like a vision-wrapt sage,
 Fancy pierces the gloom
 Of Time's distant page
 Which thy deeds shall illumine !
 And though years may pass ere the tablet of Fame
 Shall be bright with the records that blazon thy name,
 Yet Britannia, prophetic, beholds the proud day
 When the sceptre of freedom Victoria shall sway—
 The vision is bright as her own natal day :
 Awake, Rose of England ! and smile on our lay.

After the lapse of a few minutes the musicians resumed :—

THE FAIREST FLOWER OF MAY.

Composed by E. Fitzball, Esq., and set to music by Mr. Rodwell.

Spring renews its golden dreams,
Sweet birds carol 'neath each spray ;
Shed, O sun ! thy milder beams
On the fairest flower of May.

Hunters, bring the cheering horn ;
Minstrels, wake the cheering lay ;
Crown with song the natal morn
Of the fairest flower of May.

Lightly o'er our early rose,
Angels pure, your wings display ;
When the storm of sorrow blows,
Shield the fairest flower of May.

Minstrels of a free-born land,
Let one thrilling note repay
Her whose fond maternal hand
Reared the fairest flower of May.

Her's the toil of anxious years,
Her's the glory of this day ;
Her's the Nation's grateful tears
For the fairest flower in May.

Her Royal Highness, who, during the performance of the serenade, sat at one of the windows, was so much affected and delighted with this allusion to her illustrious Parent, that she requested its repetition, which was immediately complied with to the great delight of the persons assembled. The following Glee was then sung :—

VICTORIA'S NATAL DAY.

Wafted on the wings of morn,
Hark, on every breeze is borne;
With the sunbeam's earliest ray—
'Tis Victoria's natal day.

Pealing bells the news proclaim,
While the canon's voice of flame,
Through earth and air, with echoing sound,
Spreads the joyous tidings round.

Wafted on the wings of morn,
Hark, on every breeze is borne,
With the sunbeam's earliest ray,
'Tis Victoria's natal day.

The performance concluded with "God save the King," which was responded to in full chorus by the spectators. At eight o'clock the church bells commenced a merry peal; the union jack was mounted on the summit of the Old Church, and on the Green opposite the Palace, the latter being surmounted by a flag of pure white silk, on which the the Princess's name was inscribed at length, in letters of ethereal blue. The houses of the principal Inhabitants of Kensington were also tastefully decorated—some of them in a very costly style. Throughout the day the gardens and park were thronged by gaily-dressed visitants, as on a public holiday, most of them bending their steps towards Kensington Palace in the hope of seeing the Princess. From ten o'clock till noon was devoted by her Royal Highness to receiving her personal friends and the members of her household; after twelve o'clock she saw no company, except the various members of the Royal Family; but hundreds of the nobility called at the Palace in the course of the day, and left their cards of congratulation. About four, the Princess and her Mother, attended by the Baroness Lehzen and Lady Conroy, took an airing in an open carriage in Hyde Park, and afterwards walked in Kensington Gardens. Her Royal Highness looked remarkably well, and was in high spirits; she was rapturously cheered, both on her leaving the Palace and during her walk. The only drawback upon the enjoyment of this day was the

indisposition of the King, which although it did not threaten the fatal consequences that speedily ensued, was sufficient to prevent his Majesty from offering his affectionate congratulations personally to his Niece, or presiding at the court ball which took place in the evening, by their Majesties' command. The Princess however, received in the course of the day, a splendid token of her Royal Uncle's remembrance, in a beautiful grand piano-forte, of the value of two hundred guineas. The festivity concluded with a very general illumination without doors, and a ball within St. James's Palace, at which the young Princess appeared in the full bloom of youth and beauty ; and nothing could surpass the splendour and deep interest of the scene, as she passed through the avenues of the noblest and fairest in the land, to take possession, for the first time, of that chair of state, which she now occupied by courtesy, but which was so shortly to become hers by undoubted and hereditary right. Her Royal Highness occupied the centre chair, the Princess Augusta, as representative of the Queen, being seated on her right, and the Duchess of Kent on her left. The young Princess was attired, over a rich white satin slip, in a blonde dress of British manufacture, ornamented from the waist with blossoms of camellia japonica, the sleeves fastened by noends of light blue, interspersed with brilliants. She wore a bouquet in her bosom ; her head-dress was plain, but extremely elegant, the hair being

confined on the forehead by a small bandeau of brilliants, surmounted by a wreath of geranium blossoms and jessamines, highly becoming. Her Royal Highness, again rising from the chair, received the congratulations of the Duke of Cumberland and other distinguished persons, with the utmost grace, and appeared during the whole evening highly animated by the passing scene. After an interval of a few moments only, the ball opened with a quadrille, the Princess herself being led off by Lord Fitzalan, eldest son of the Earl of Surry, and grandson of the Duke of Norfolk. Her Royal Highness subsequently danced with Prince Nicholas Esterhazy, son of the Austrian Ambassador. At one o'clock the company partook of supper in the banquetting-room ; and the merry dance was resumed with much spirit, and kept up without intermission until a late hour ; all present appearing to be animated with a deep feeling of the happy occasion on which this splendid festival was given.

ADDRESSES OF CONGRATULATION.

Although the royal birthday was itself closed by the Palace gala, the ceremonies attendant upon it

were by no means so speedily disposed of. Addresses poured in from all parts of the country ; but that presented by the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London deserves especial notice. The proceedings of the Common Council upon this occasion possess a high degree of interest, as establishing a precedent upon a novel case, and are therefore stated at length. A Court was held on the 23rd of May, for the purpose of determining the best means of celebrating the day on which her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria should attain her majority, and to consider a motion, "That this Court do agree to an address of congratulation to the Princess Alexandrina-Victoria and her Royal Mother the Duchess of Kent, to be presented on the occasion of her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria attaining her majority."

After the Clerk had read the minutes of the last Court,

Mr. Anderton wished the law officers to state whether there was any precedent for an address to a person under the circumstances in which the Princess Victoria was placed.

Mr. Woodthorpe said, across the table, that there was no precedent.

Mr. Edward Wilson contended that there was no necessity for the opinion of the law officers, and observed that if there existed no precedent it would be wise to establish one. He was sure that he expressed the feeling of the Court, in hailing with

peculiar satisfaction the approaching day on which the amiable young Princess would reach her majority. With every wish that the reign of the present Sovereign should be of long duration, it was a matter of pleasing anticipation that he would, in all probability, be succeeded by one who had been born, and maintained, and educated in England ; and under the care of a mother whose domestic virtues the people of this country were acquainted with. He trusted that, in the young Princess, the nation would one day have a Queen whose name might be placed next to that of Elizabeth without an abatement of reputation and glory ; and he rejoiced that the Princess was so entirely English in her manners, habits, and feelings. Mr. Wilson concluded by moving that an address be presented to her Royal Highness, congratulating her on her having reached her majority.

The Recorder intimated to the Court that the majority of the Princess Victoria was a contingency, depending upon the event of her ascending the throne.

Mr. Edward Wilson did not think that such a contingency ought to be allowed to interfere with the feeling of the Court. In the event of the demise of the King she would be of age, and would be enabled to exercise all the functions of a Sovereign without the intervention of a Regent. The moment she reached her eighteenth year, she was, to all intents and purposes, as completely em-

powered to perform the business of the Sovereignty, in the event of a calamity that, he hoped, was at as great a distance as if she had attained the age of twenty-one.

The motion having been seconded,

Sir Peter Laurie rose to propose an alteration, or amendment, in the wording of the resolution. He perfectly agreed in the approbation expressed by Mr. Wilson of the manner in which the Princess had been brought up ; but he was not aware that there was any authority to which the Court could be referred for its guidance. Although at the age of eighteen the Princess, if called to the throne, would be qualified to exercise the functions of a Queen, she remained, under existing circumstances, in a state of minority as perfect as when she was an infant. It was the custom, too, on the occasion of moving addresses of congratulation on the attainment of majority, to perform that office through the King, and he should with great pleasure support a motion of congratulation when the Princess Victoria should reach the twenty-first year of her age, to his Majesty, who, he hoped, would sit upon the throne for many, many years. It was desirable that, on an occasion of such a nature as the present, the Court should express an unanimous feeling ; for which reason he should propose that they should address the Princess upon her reaching her eighteenth year, without any allusion at all to the situation in which she stood with respect to the throne.

Mr. Anderton disapproved of an address which went to state what was not the fact. The Princess would not attain her majority until she should reach the usual period of twenty-one years.

Mr. Pewtress said that the operation of the Act of Parliament which determined that the Princess Victoria should be of age upon arriving at her eighteenth year, in the event of the demise of the King, was to place her in a situation in which, under other circumstances, she would not be until she reached the age of twenty-one. The Court were justified in addressing her on reaching her majority, as, in the event of immediate succession, she would be qualified to perform the functions of the Sovereignty.

Mr. Lawrence said he did not see why, as Sir Peter Laurie supposed, the King should be addressed on the subject. If the Princess Victoria was his Majesty's daughter, it might be proper to address his Majesty on the subject. With respect to authorities for addressing members of the Royal Family, there were numerous instances when the process of addressing the King at the same time was never thought of. The Princess was Heiress Presumptive to the throne as matters stood at present. She was to attain her majority at the age of eighteen, by a special Act of Parliament, and she ought to be addressed in the character of Heir Presumptive.

Mr. Wheeler said that before the proposition

was made, it ought to have been ascertained whether the addresses could be received. He knew a body of gentlemen who had got up an address to the Princess, congratulating her upon reaching her majority ; but, upon speaking to Sir John Conroy upon the subject, they were informed that the Princess had not yet arrived at her majority, and their labours were therefore in vain.

Mr. Richard Taylor said, that in voting an address to the Princess there should not be an atom of party feeling. The address should, to the exclusion of all politics, consist of the expression of the most kindly feeling towards the Princess Victoria, her Mother, and his Majesty ; and he was convinced that the friends of the Princess would most heartily wish that his present Majesty should long remain on the throne, and that she should succeed in less troublesome times. The address ought to be affectionate, and not political ; and he approved of the qualification proposed by Sir Peter Laurie, as better calculated to answer the purposes they all must have at heart. He was of opinion, however, that the Duchess of Kent, and not his Majesty, should be addressed at the same time that they addressed the Princess.

A Member objected to the original motion, upon the ground of the possibility that another claimant might step in between the Princess and the throne. Some people calculated upon the delicate state of the Queen's health, and believed that such an

occurrence might take place as would supply an Heir Apparent to the crown. He thought that the address might not be very palatable to his Majesty.

Mr. Baylis said it was a great mistake to suppose that his Majesty was so weak a man as to feel hurt at finding that his niece was addressed.

Mr. King apprehended that if the first proposition were agreed to, the Court would be in the situation of the gentlemen who had met with the repulse upon consulting Sir John Conroy.

After a few observations from other Members, it was unanimously agreed to that her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria should be presented with an address congratulating her upon her reaching the eighteenth year of her age. It was also unanimously agreed to that her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent should be presented with an address of congratulation on the occasion.

A Committee was then appointed, upon the motion of Mr. E. Wilson, to prepare the addresses, which were afterwards read before the Court, and adopted.

Mr. Godson observed that there would be just as much reason for addressing her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria this time twelvemonth, upon her reaching her nineteenth year. (Murmurs and cries of "no, no," and laughter.) It was then resolved that the addresses should be signed by the Town Clerk, and presented by the whole Court, and that the Sheriffs should be requested to attend, with the

Remembrancer, at Kensington Palace, to ascertain when it would be convenient for their Royal Highnesses to receive them.

Mr. E. Wilson, in moving that the proceedings should be inserted in the usual morning and evening newspapers, said he wished very much that the birthday of the Princess Victoria should be kept as a holiday generally. Confusion might arise from the fact that by some it would be observed as a day on which no work would be done, while, by others, there would be no celebration of it at all.

Mr. Anderton said it was his wish that those who meant to make it a holiday, should work hard and give their earnings to the multitude of poor who were supplicating relief—the starving Scotch, and Spitalfields weavers, and Poles. Such a mode of celebration would reflect great honour on those who acted on the suggestion, and would, he was convinced, be most satisfactory to the illustrious persons whom they addressed. (Cheers)

Sir Peter Laurie considered that every man ought to be allowed to act as he thought proper on the occasion.

The pleasure of their Royal Highnesses having been ascertained accordingly, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, &c., attended at Kensington on the following Tuesday for the purpose of presenting their addresses. At two o'clock, the appointed hour, the Lord Mayor arrived at the palace in a very elegant state carriage, drawn by six horses, preceded by

the City Marshal, in 'full uniform, on horseback, and by the City Marshalmen. His Lordship was attended by his Chaplain, Sword-bearer, and Mace-bearer, and followed by a large party of Aldermen, and all the City officers, together with about one hundred and fifty Members of the Common Council in a long train of carriages. Their Royal Highnesses had already taken their station at the upper end of the grand Saloon, surrounded by the Ladies and Gentlemen of their household, consisting of the Duchess of Northumberland, Lady Catherine Jenkinson, Lady Flora Hastings, Lady Mary Stopford, Lady Conroy, Hon. Lady Cust, Baroness Lehzen, Sir John Conroy, Sir Frederick Wetherall, Sir George Anson, General Upton, Colonel Harcourt, Captain Spencer, and Colonel Caradoc. Her Royal Highness the Princess Sophia was also present, as were their Serene Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Leiningen, and several of their Royal Highnesses' personal friends.

The Corporation were ushered, by two of the Duchess's Equerries, into the presence of their Royal Highnesses in this apartment, and the Recorder immediately read the Address—

“To her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent.

“We, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, approach your Royal Highness to offer our congratulations upon the happy

occasion of your Royal Daughter, the Princess Alexandrina Victoria, having attained the age of eighteen years. It is scarcely possible for us to appreciate the feelings of your Royal Highness upon this joyful event; but we beg to express our unfeigned hope that you may long witness the fruits of your care and attention, bestowed in so exemplary a manner upon the education of your Royal Daughter, in the admiration and affections of a free people."

Her Royal Highness graciously bending to the Lord Mayor, read, in a distinct voice, and with a slight German accent, the following beautiful exposition of her maternal feelings on this most gratifying occasion:—

"My Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London:

"If I consulted my own feelings, I would abstain from a reply, except to assure you that my heart is filled with gratitude.

"The Disposer of all human events has vouchsafed to allow me to be rewarded far beyond what I deserve, by witnessing at this epoch, so dear to my maternal feelings, such general expressions of loyalty to our King, hope and confidence in my child, and approbation of the way in which I have brought her up. It makes me feel I should add a few words more, as what I say on this occasion may reach many who take a lively interest in the event you congratulate me on, and, as this is probably the last public act of my life, I feel called on to do so.

"I pass over the earlier part of my connexion with this country. I will merely briefly observe that my late, regretted Consort's circumstances and my duties obliged us to reside in Germany; but the Duke of Kent, at much inconvenience, and I, at great personal risk, returned to England, that our child should be 'born and bred a Briton.'

"In a few months afterwards, my infant and myself were

awfully deprived of father and husband. We stood alone, almost friendless and unknown in this country ; I could not even speak the language of it.

"I did not hesitate how to act. I gave up my home, my kindred, my duties, to devote myself to that duty which was to be the whole object of my future life. I was supported in the execution of my duty by the country ; it placed its trust in me, and the Regency bill gave me its last act of confidence. ;

"I have, in times of great difficulty, avoided all connection with any party in the state ; but, if I have done so, I have never ceased to press on my daughter her duties, so as to gain by her conduct the respect and affections of the people. This I have taught her, should be her first earthly duty as a Constitutional Sovereign.

"The Princess has arrived at that age which now justifies me in expressing my confident expectation that she will be found competent to execute the sacred trust which may be reposed in her ; for communicating as she does with all classes of society, she cannot but perceive that the greater the diffusion of religious knowledge, and the love of freedom, in a country, the more orderly, industrious, and wealthy is its population ; and that, with the desire to preserve the Constitutional prerogatives of the Crown, ought to be co-ordinate the protection of the liberties of the people."

The Recorder then proceeded to read the Address to

" Her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria.

"We, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Commons of the City of London, in Common Council assembled, approach your Royal Highness, upon the happy occasion of your Royal Highness having attained the age of eighteen years. We confidently anticipate, with the liveliest satisfaction, the benefits to be derived from the excellent education your Royal Highness has

received, under the exemplary care of your illustrious mother, in the full assurance that, whatever station your Royal Highness may be called upon to occupy, you will continue to afford an example of those virtues that dignify and adorn the female character; and we fervently hope that you may long live in the enjoyment of health, and the admiration and affection of a free and happy people."

The young Princess, with the blushing diffidence so engaging at her years, simply replied,—

"I am very thankful for your kindness, and my mother has expressed all my feelings."

The Lord Mayor, Aldermen, the Recorder, the Sheriffs, and all the principal functionaries, with the mover and seconder of the Addresses, were afterwards severally presented to the Duchess of Kent and the Princess Victoria.

An excellent cold collation was prepared in the adjoining apartment for the Civic Deputation, who are said to have partaken of it with a characteristic zest, after which they left the palace with the same ceremony which had attended their arrival.

For very many succeeding days their Royal Highnesses devoted an hour or two in the afternoon to receiving the numerous deputations, charged with the delivery of similar expressions of congratulation and attachment. The Gentlemen deputed were always ushered into the presence of the Royal Ladies with the same ceremony that had attended

the introduction of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of London, and were uniformly presented to the young Princess by her proud and happy mother, who thenceforward also resigned to her the office of replying to their addresses, except such as were individually presented to herself. A work which must be submitted to a certain limit will not allow even brief abstracts of such addresses to be given, nor indeed would it be fair to make selections; but in noticing the manner in which they were received it is impossible not to distinguish that which was presented by the inhabitants of Kensington, through their Reverend Vicar the Archdeacon Pott. As soon as the venerable deputy was introduced, the young Princess advanced to meet him with a smiling welcome, and assured him, not merely in the formal words of etiquette, but with the artless expression of genuine feeling, of the high gratification with which she received the warm sentiments of affectionate attachment he was commissioned by his parishioners to lay before her; and at the same time promised him that the welfare and interest of her native town should never fail to be zealously forwarded by any means which it might please God to place in her power. This ceremony, indeed, though sometimes personally fatiguing and irksome—for her Royal Highness on several occasions received as many as four-and-twenty addresses in one day—must upon the whole have proved highly gratifying, as conveying such undoubted proofs of the very

general interest with which the majority of the Heiress Presumptive was hailed even in the remotest corners of the Empire.

POETICAL TRIBUTES.

Amongst the various effusions of this description which were offered to the acceptance of the nation's hope upon this auspicious and joyful occasion, that by the lamented Mrs. Maclean, better known by the appellation of L. E. L., stands decidedly foremost in point of importance and of merit. It was thus flatteringly ushered into notice by a distinguished reviewer of the day :—" We can imagine the deep and true pleasure of a mind, gradually opening with the promise which is said to attend the development of the Princess Victoria's character, in finding itself warmed and kindled upon a birthday morning, by the rich thoughts, the sweet fancies, and the elevated sentiments which are here gathered into one harmonious offering. If few Princesses have risen into life with happier omens or fairer prospects, none surely ever had more devoted and affectionate wishes from all—and to this we may add with equal certainty, that no one ever had the good fortune to be greeted in a lovelier strain of poetry. Here, indeed is music that may not only make touching and joyful the circumstances of the natal day which

called it forth, but be remembered in long after-time, and mingle with the happiest associations of youth. We freely admit that every poet has not such a subject as the Princess Victoria, but we must also own that every Princess has not such a Minstrel as L. E. L."

Its beautiful opening may serve as a specimen for the whole —

"When has the day the loveliest of its hours ?

It is the hour when morn breaks into day,
When dew-drops light the yet unfolded flowers,
And sunshine seems like hope upon its way.

"Then soars the lark amid the azure, singing

A Seraph's song, that is of heaven not earth;
Then comes the wind, a fragrant wanderer, bringing
The breath of vales where violets have birth.

"Which of the seasons of the year is fairest ?

That when the spring first blushes into bloom ;
There is the beauty, earliest and rarest,
When the world warms with colour and perfume.

"Then are the meadows filled with pleasant voices,

Earth one bright promise what it is to be ;
Then the green forest in its depths rejoices,
Flowers in the grass, and buds upon the tree.

"Then the red rose reveals her future glory,

Breaking the green moss with one crimson trace ;
So dawns the white—while old historic story
Tells how they wreath for England's Royal race.

"If thus so fair the spring-time and the morning,
But in the world of leaf and bud; how fair,
With all their early loveliness adorning,
Still lovelier in our human world they are.

"Youth is around thee, Ladye of the ocean,
Ocean that is thy kingdom and thy home,
Where not a heart but kindles with emotion,
Dreaming of honoured years that are to come.

"What is the light of morning's rosy breaking,
To the young promise of that Royal mind?
What are the hopes of sunny spring's awaking,
To hopes which in thy future are inshrined?

"Mighty the task, and glorious the fulfilling,
Duties that round thy future hours must be:
The east and west depend upon thy willing,
Mistress art thou wherever rolls the sea.

"Fair art thou, Princess; in thy youthful beauty,
Thoughtful and pure, the spirit claims its part;
Gazing on thy young face, a nation's duty,
Bursts forth into the homage of the heart.

"O'er thy high forehead is the soft hair braided;
Be never darker shadow on that brow!
Not yet one tint of youth's sweet hues are faded;
The loveliness of promise lights thee now.

"Around thee are a thousand hearts addressing
Prayer, for thy sake, to every power divine;
No lip that names thee, names without a blessing;
A nation's holiest wishes are all thine."

Again the concluding stanzas breathe a similar spirit of sweetness :—

“God’s blessing be upon thee, Royal Maiden !
And be thy throne heaven’s altar here below,
With sweet thanksgivings and with honours laden,
Of moral victories o’er want and woe.

“Glorious and happy be thy coming hours,
Young Daughter of Old England’s Royal line !
As in an Angel’s pathway spring up flowers,
So may a nation’s blessing spring in thine.”

The reminiscences of this auspicious day may be appropriately closed with the following pretty lines published in Blackwood’s Edinburgh Magazine for June, 1837.

To her Royal Highness the Princess Victoria.

FAIR wer’t thou when thy mother’s eye
Looked on thy smiling infancy,
And fondly gazing tried to see
Thy father’s image stamped on thee—
Sweet task ! that for the widow’s grief
Found in the mother’s hope relief.

Fair wer’t thou as a little child,
When that beloved mother mild
Began to mingle smiles with tears,
And garner hopes for future years,
Till won by thee to thoughts of gladness,
Her spirit was unyoked from sadness.

And fair thy childhood ever grew,
Brightening with graces ever new ;
When growth of person was combined
With growing graces of the mind,
Till all the good and wise approved thee,
And all, who ever knew thee, loved thee.

And fair is thy sweet opening youth,
Signed with the seal of holy truth :
Thine is a bosom without guile ;
Faith claims thy unsuspicious smile :
And virtue calls that heart her own,
Which beats beneath thy virgin zone.

Still fairer, Princess, wise and good,
Shall be thy bloom of womanhood ;
For thou hast chosen Mary's part
And from the right thou wilt not start ;
To thee thy mind thy kingdom is—
What other sway can equal this ?

Fear not what evil men may do,
But still thy even way pursue ;
For a Divinity doth fence
The whereabouts of innocence,
And Royalty's most certain shield
Virtue and truth to courage yield.

Gloom enters e'en a royal bower,
And ease not often dwells with power,
And pains as well as gems beset
The circle of the coronet ;
But earth has joys, and heaven has smiles,
For the sweet Lady of the isles.

Our England's second hope ! our theme !
 Arete' of the poet's dream !
 Our pleasant thought ! our Rose of State,
 On whom our loyal wishes wait !
 Elizabeth, with brighter bloom,
 Our Charlotte, with a happier doom.

Fair darling of the nation ! we
 Turn ever anxious eyes to thee,
 And on our hearts is set a seal,
 E'en to the death, to guard thy weal :
 Oh never may distrustful cloud
 Thy presence from thy people shroud !

With glowing hopes our bosoms burn,
 Our hearts with eager fondness yearn ;
 Millions in thee an interest claim—
 Thine is become a household name :
 Shine out, and make thy light be seen,
 Our hope, our joy, our future Queen.

THE HEIRESS PRESUMPTIVE AT EIGHTEEN.

Her Royal Highness had now attained the age at which, by the well-considered and prudent determination of the legislature, she was qualified to wield with her own hands the British sceptre ; and had reached this important and interesting stage of her existence, under the guidance and protection of a watchful, affectionate, and judicious mother, who

had anxiously laboured to fit her for the duties of that exalted station, which, by the unerring decrees of Providence she was so early destined to fill, without having once occasioned to the country or to the royal family a feeling of apprehension or anxiety, as to her disposition or her conduct. Whatever alarm had at any time been felt on her account, had related solely to her health ; and it was a source of great and general satisfaction to the country to know, that in this respect, there was no longer the slightest ground for apprehension. Her Royal Highness's strength had increased with her years, and whatever fears might at any former period have been entertained, they had within the last twelve-month been altogether dissipated, and she was now presented to the nation in the full bloom and development of earliest womanhood. Her height measured precisely five feet two inches ; " but small for a queen," as her Majesty has been known to remark upon herself ; her figure was, or rather is, (for but little alteration has taken place in her appearance since the period now spoken of) slight and well made, but sufficiently *en embonpoint* to indicate health and good humour ; her bust especially is remarkably fine, the head being beautifully placed ; and her arms, hands, and feet are exquisitely proportioned. Her complexion is transparently fair, her cheeks naturally pale, but generally adorned with the fresh, though delicate glow of health, and very apt to flush upon occasions of a little fatigue

or excitement; her forehead is ample, and the fashion she has adopted of simply braiding her beautiful and luxuriant light hair, extremely favourable to the ingenuous and dignified expression of her countenance. Her large full blue eye, prominent aquiline nose, and the commanding curl of her lip, sufficiently denote the illustrious race from which she springs, and continually remind the beholder of the poet Laureate's *Carmen Nuptiale*:—

“In her fair cheek, and in her bright blue eye,
Her flaxen locks and her benignant mien,
The marks of Brunswick's Royal line are seen.”

Her Majesty is not, in the general opinion, considered to be beautiful, or even very pretty; yet all agree that her features are well formed and noble, and the expression of their *tout ensemble* highly interesting. Her countenance is rather marked by sedateness and gravity, than by vivacity; yet it exhibits, when she is engaged in conversation or otherwise excited, a high degree of animation, and there is a playful grace and simplicity in her manner which is extremely attractive.

Of her mental acquirements fame speaks highly; and the Bishop of London, who has had many opportunities of forming a correct judgment on the subject, has declared, since her Majesty's accession, that he considers her to be generally extremely well informed, and her mind highly cultivated, but that

in the especial department of history and languages she is a perfect proficient. Certain it is that she has spoken French and German with fluency from her infancy, and that Italian and Spanish have been carefully studied in later years. In Latin and Greek she had already made great progress at the age of twelve, and has continued to study them under the superintendence of able professors. To mathematics she has also devoted a certain portion of her time ; and her religious duties have always been carried on with care by her excellent preceptor, the Dean of Chester. Her conversational powers, as well as the attention she has directed, throughout the progress of her education, to the various departments of political economy, have been, from time to time, remarked upon in the preceding pages.

In those personal accomplishments which add so much grace to the female character, it is scarcely necessary to observe that her Majesty excels. Her musical proficiency is very great, and her ear so refined, that Sir George Smart assured the professional parties engaged in the Abbey, at the Coronation, that should one of them fail in a single note, the Queen would not fail to detect the error. She performs with great taste and execution on the piano, and sings sweetly, and with considerable power. Her taste for drawing has been before spoken of ; but although it still continues to hold a high place in her Majesty's estimation, her time is

now so wholly occupied as to leave her very little opportunity of pursuing those favourite occupations; but the high station to which she has been called to fill, renders a chaste and correct taste in this particular more important in respect to patronage than to personal performances: and here it is pleasing to observe that much of the royal attention and encouragement is bestowed upon the rising talent of native artists. In the use of her pen, her Majesty displays a clear and graceful hand, though not marked with any decided characteristic. The style of her dancing is graceful and animated; and of her love for this exhilarating exercise as well as her ability to join in it, her Majesty has of late years given very convincing proofs. She is fond of quadrilles, and loves to wind up a ball with a lengthened and spirited country dance; but never takes any part in waltzes, although they are constantly performed at the Palace, generally alternately with quadrilles.

HAYTER'S PORTRAIT.

The only very striking portrait which was taken of the Princess, from the period at which the former list was closed to that of her majority, was a full-length, by Mr. George Hayter, painted for the King

of the Belgians, when her Royal Highness was fourteen years of age, and exhibited at the Royal Academy in the summer of 1833. The Princess is placed in the middle of the canvass ; the head is turned round, presenting nearly a front face, but the figure is in profile. The right hand, in which is a rose, rests on a library table ; the left holds negligently at her side a light lace scarf. A beautiful little spaniel, sporting with his mistress's glove, imparts life and spirit to the piece. Windsor Castle is seen towering in the distance, the intervening space presenting a view of the oak trees of the forest, marked with the autumnal tints. The figure of the youthful Princess is easy, simple, and graceful. The delicacy of the arm and hand, as also of the foot and ankle is exquisite. The face may be pronounced to be an excellent, honest likeness, without any attempt at flattery ; the countenance strongly expresses the amiability and intelligence of the original, and is considered by many to bear a great likeness to the late Princess Charlotte ; several of the features, more especially the brow, decidedly recal the recollection of her Father ; yet upon the whole, there seems to be too much sharpness in the outline of both nose and mouth, which gives to them more of the development of maturity than consists with the tender age of the illustrious subject.

This picture has been beautifully engraved in mezzotinto by Bromley, was published by Colnaghi

and Co., and continued to be the standard portrait of her Royal Highness, until the period of her accession, notwithstanding that a variety of likenesses of less pretensions, some authentic, and of considerable merit, and others entirely spurious, were continually presented to the public. Immediately upon the death of the late King, however, these resemblances were multiplied tenfold, and entirely defied the efforts of criticism : some of the more pretending amongst them will nevertheless be passed in review, at a future period.

THE ACCESSION.

At five o'clock in the morning of the 20th of June, 1837, the Archbishop of Canterbury, having attended the death-bed of the departed Monarch, arrived at Kensington Palace, to announce to his youthful Successor, the melancholy intelligence of the Royal demise. His grace was immediately admitted to an interview with the Queen and the Duchess of Kent, which lasted a considerable time, and was in the highest degree affecting.

After the departure of the Archbishop, the first act of the new Sovereign was to write an affectionate letter of condolence to her widowed Aunt, which, forgetting in the sympathising emotions of her warm heart, her own newly-acquired dignity, she directed

to "Her Majesty the Queen." On placing her letter in the hands of one of her household officers, it was respectfully represented to her Majesty, that the Queen of yesterday was the Dowager of to-day; and that it would be more accordant with etiquette were the letter so addressed. For one moment her Majesty considered of the proffered advice; but the next the native delicacy of her mind was predominant: "No," said she, with a mild firmness of the brightest promise, "I wish you to transmit it as it is."

A brief space was now permitted to the Queen to indulge the natural grief which every affectionate heart must feel when called upon to resign those ties of social love and duty which bind the members of a family to each other; and there is no reason to believe that the amiable individuals, of whom our Royal Family is composed, are devoid of those feelings of attachment to each other; or that the young Princess especially did not mourn the loss of her illustrious Uncle with a sorrow more 'peculiarly her own, because the most important, and, to an inexperienced mind, it might be almost said, appalling, duties had thereby devolved upon her. To the outburst, therefore, of this grief, to the task of composing her mind, and collecting her thoughts for the first exercise of her royal functions, which was so speedily to follow, a little space, as before observed, was now devoted; and, sympathizing in all the emotions of our beloved young Queen, a small portion

of attention can scarcely be better bestowed here than in a serious consideration of some excellent remarks, taken from a number of "The Christian Observer," published nearly at the period of accession, upon the duty of prayer for the Sovereign, which, at all times incumbent upon pious and loyal subjects, had now become, perhaps, doubly imperative.

"Our youthful Monarch needs in a very peculiar manner the intercessions of her subjects ; for most arduous is her station, and great, beyond those of ordinary life, are the difficulties and dangers which surround her. Our Liturgy supplies us with excellent prayers for this purpose ; and some of those composing the beautiful service for the occasion are eminently applicable in the present instance. To a youthful mind the pomps and vanities of the world have a charm of novelty which renders them peculiarly dangerous ; and who can say how fearfully perilous must be their attraction in the case of one suddenly called, in tender years, from almost the seclusion of private life, to encounter all that refinement, and splendour, and adulation, can heap together, to delight the eye and captivate the heart. It is a giddy eminence ; and steady must be the head that does not become dizzy, as the eye glances downward from such an precipice. Let us pray that the blossoms of hope be not withered by courtly influences, more blighting to the severe vir-

tues of the Christian life than the nipping blasts of the rudest poverty. It is the grace of God, deeply engrafted in the heart, which alone, whether in the sunshine of prosperity, or the winter of adversity, can cause hallowed fruits to ripen in a human bosom; and blessed be God that grace, as it is needed in the most favourable stations, is also sufficient for the most arduous. Few only possess the hazardous responsibility of being able, in a direct manner, to bring the doctrines and precepts of the Bible to bear upon the habits of a princely circle: but all who desire it can have access to a higher than any earthly throne; and let those who value that inestimable privilege, remember for their consolation, that it were one of the brightest omens of our beloved Queen, that she should be a Queen of many prayers."

THE FIRST COUNCIL.

At eleven o'clock, the Privy Counsellors, to the number of about a hundred, having assembled in the grand Saloon at Kensington Palace, the new Sovereign entered the apartment, accompanied only by the Duke of Sussex; and seated at the head of the council board, the only female present, took the usual oaths respecting the government of the king-

dom, and the church of Scotland. In reading the latter oath, her Majesty had occasion to recapitulate the title of an old act of parliament in which the word "intituled" is used, instead of the present word, "entitled." Lord Melbourne, who stood beside her, corrected her in an under voice, "entitled, please your Majesty." The young Queen turned quickly towards his lordship, with a look of mingled surprise and reproof, then, casting her eyes again upon her paper, she repeated in a louder voice, "An act INTITULED," &c.

Her Majesty afterwards made the following interesting declaration, in a firm, clear, and musical voice, and with impressive emphasis :—

"The severe and afflicting loss which the nation has sustained by the death of his Majesty, my beloved Uncle, has devolved upon me the duty of administering the government of this Empire. This awful responsibility is imposed upon me so suddenly, and at so early a period of my life, that I should feel utterly oppressed by the burden, were I not sustained by the hope that Divine Providence, which has called me to this work, will give me strength for the performance of it ; and that I shall find, in the purity of my intentions, and in my zeal for the public welfare, that support and those resources which usually belong to a more mature age, and to longer experience.

“ I place my firm reliance upon the wisdom of Parliament, and upon the 'loyalty and affection of my people. I esteem it also a peculiar advantage that I succeed to a Sovereign whose constant regard for the rights and liberties of his subjects, and whose desire to promote the amelioration of the laws and institutions of the country, have rendered his name the object of general attachment and veneration.

“ Educated in England, under the tender and enlightened care of a most affectionate mother, I have learned from my infancy, to respect and love the constitution of my native country.

“ It will be my unceasing study to maintain the reformed religion, as by law established, securing at the same time to all the full enjoyment of religious liberty ; and I shall steadily protect the rights, and promote, to the utmost of my power, the happiness and welfare of all classes of my subjects.”

This Address, whether the production of the new Sovereign, or of her Ministers, possesses a simple and earnest beauty which comes home to the hearts of all, and is a refreshing exception to the cold, unmeaning style in which state addresses are too generally put together.

The following proclamation was then agreed upon and signed by all the Privy Counsellors present :—

“ Whereas it has pleased Almighty God to call

to his mercy our late Sovereign Lord, King William the Fourth, of blessed and glorious memory, by whose decease the Imperial Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland is solely and rightfully come to the high and mighty Princess Alexandrina Victoria, saving the rights of any issue of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, which may be borne of his late Majesty's Consort: we, therefore, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal of this realm, being here assisted with these of his late Majesty's Privy Council, with numbers of others principal Gentlemen of quality, with the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of London, do now hereby, with one voice and consent of tongue and heart, publish and proclaim that the High and Mighty Princess Alexandrina Victoria is now, by the death of our late Sovereign, of happy memory, become our only lawful and rightful liege Lady Victoria, by the grace of God, Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, saving as aforesaid. To whom, saving as aforesaid, we do acknowledge all faith, and constant obedience with all hearty and humble affection, beseeching God, by whom Kings and Queens do reign, to bless the Royal Princess VICTORIA with long and happy years to reign over us.

“ Given at the Court at Kensington, this twentieth day of June, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven.

“ GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.”

The whole demeanour of our youthful and lovely Queen on this very striking occasion, rivetted the attention and excited the astonishment of every one present. Sir Robert Peel, with a beautiful burst of genuine eloquence, thus describes it, in his speech upon the parliamentary address about to be presented to the new Sovereign : " It is with heartfelt sincerity that I join in the cordial good-wishes which have been expressed in the Address which the noble Lord (John Russell) has so ably moved, that health and happiness, and a long reign of prosperity and glory, may accompany the young Queen. I can only wish that that success may respond to her own actual inclinations, to her own natural powers—that it may respond to the assiduous, affectionate, and unremitted attention which has been devoted by an illustrious Princess and affectionate Mother. It may perhaps be considered unphilosophical to form a judgment of human character from apparently trifling or unimportant incidents ; but, Sir, I will venture to say that there was no man present when her Majesty, at the age of eighteen years, first stepped from the privacy of domestic life to the discharge of the high functions which on Tuesday last she was first called upon to perform, without entertaining a confident expectation that she who could so demean herself, was destined to a reign of happiness for her people, and glory for herself. There is something which art cannot make, and which lessons cannot teach—(hear, hear, hear) ;

there was something in her demeanor that could only be suggested by a high and generous nature ; there was an expression of deep regret for the domestic calamity with which she had been visited—(hear, hear, hear)—of a deep and awful sense of the duties she was called on to discharge ; there was a becoming and dignified modesty in all her motions—(hear, hear)—which could only be dictated by a high and generous nature, brought up under the advice of one for whose affection, care, and solicitude, she ought to be deeply grateful.” (Cheers.)

Lord Francis Egerton, upon the occasion of a public dinner, observes ;—“ It is impossible to be insensible to the influence of the enthusiastic feelings excited by the personal character of perhaps the most interesting Sovereign that ever graced a throne. It was my happy lot—happy far beyond my merits—to be present at the first public act of her Majesty after her accession. For your sakes, I wish you had all been there, when the folding doors that separated her Majesty from the Council were thrown open, and she was seen sitting alone in the halls of her sires, whose spirits it might be supposed still hovered around, watching over the preservation of the constitution in which they gloried, and anxious to maintain its noblest attributes, in upholding the dignity of the being to whom they have transmitted the fairest, highest, and greatest inheritance upon earth. About her was the luxuriant

foliage of the early summer—meet emblem of her dawning career ; and, significant enough, the trees themselves had been planted by William the Liberator. Here I saw this young and innocent Sovereign take her station at that table where, many years since, the 6th Edward, the only younger monarch England ever knew, and to whom we are indebted for our invaluable Liturgy, had also stood ; here too I heard her, in a voice attuned to sorrow mastered for a great occasion, and with firm confidence in an over-ruling Providence, read that speech which confirmed her attachment, and pledged her, to the Established Church ; and I felt, and do still feel most firmly assured that she will never entertain an idea of violating the oath she then took. Long will the scene I witnessed on that occasion dwell in my memory ; it was in a high degree affecting, especially at the moment when ONE knelt to kiss the royal hand ; and the simple braid of those fair tresses which sat beneath England's crown was brought into contact with the whitened locks of Wellington, with those veteran locks devoted to her service. Then England's Genius, which had seen many a scar, seemed banded to her feet, ready to protect her in the hour of danger ; then did the right arm of Britannia seem near her, ready to smite and to save." (It is impossible to describe the electric effect produced on the audience by the recital of this anecdote. The whole company rose, simultaneously cheered with their utmost might,

and exhibited the most fervent enthusiasm. The crowd outside the building, ascertaining the cause of the unwonted shouts within, caught up the cry, which was re-echoed throughout the town of Bolton for several minutes.) "The scene I then witnessed could never have been surpassed. Something, perhaps, like its parallel might be found in the instance of another female Sovereign, when the chivalry of Hungary appeared in arms in her cause ; but those around our Queen were no vassal lords—no feudal chiefs, who owed a demanded allegiance through any species of villainage. We represented not the interests of serfs or slaves, but appeared for free-born subjects before the monarch of our choice, ready to repeat the cry of the Hungarian Barons, '*Moriamur pro rege nostra Alexandrina-Victoria !*' "

On a bright and jewelled throne,
Sits she whom Britain hails her own ;
The queen of realms o'er which as yet
The sun of heaven has never set.
High and fair is her girlish brow
As she looks o'er the group that surrounds her now ;
Brighter her eye than the brightest gem
That glows in her queenly diadem ;
Purer her heart than the gold that shines
In the throne on which her form reclines.
High upon the Queen's right hand,
See a veteran warrior stand,
To whom she seems in accents kind
To speak her young and spotless mind ;

And as he stoops to listen now,
Almost to touch her regal brow,
The sunny locks that cluster there
Blend with the warrior's thin grey hair.

Again, Lord Londonderry says—"I was present when her Majesty attended the Privy Council to be sworn in; and I must declare, that so much clearness of intellect, so much propriety of conduct, so much of beauty, of grace, and I may say of every lovely female quality, were never before united in any young person, as shone forth in our gracious Queen upon that occasion. It is quite impossible that any one could have witnessed that scene, who would not have sacrificed every thing dear to him, who would not have shed the last drop of his blood to uphold her throne."

It was doubtless to this same occasion that the Archbishop of Canterbury alluded, when he so touchingly observed—"Every gesture and every look of our young Queen are full of goodly promise: and when we behold the tree so rich in the fair blossoms of Spring, why should we doubt that it will produce abundant and valuable fruit in its maturity?"

We have, moreover, the concurring testimony of the Duke of Wellington, Lord Lyndhurst, Lord

Stanley, the Earl of Durham, and several other distinguished members of the Council, publicly given, to the admirable manner in which this first act of sovereignty was performed ; each dwelling with delight upon the grace, the dignity, the modest self-possession, the tenderness for the memory of her departed Uncle, and for her beloved Mother, which marked every word and action of her on whom all eyes were turned, during this trying and exciting scene. The following extract from a private letter is but an additional confirmation of what has been already remarked upon the subject:—

“ London, June 20th, 1837.

“ I have just returned from the Privy Council, which assembled at Kensington at eleven. Nothing could be more graceful, or in better taste, than the manner and action of the young Queen. Her voice and delivery are particularly good, and gave great effect to the declaration, which I think is remarkably well composed. It was altogether a most affecting as well as interesting sight, and we were all afraid that the Queen might be overcome on so sudden and trying an occasion, until we found that she could command her feelings, and that she was able to go through all the duty of the day with self-possession and calmness.”

The Queen altogether abstained from exhibiting towards any of the distinguished persons assembled

the slightest mark of personal recognition. It might have been supposed that all in the Council Chamber, with the exception of her royal Uncles, the King of Hanover, and the Duke of Sussex, had been then introduced into her Majesty's presence for the first time. When the latter took the oath of allegiance, he would have knelt to kiss the Queen's hand, but her Majesty prevented him, and affectionately kissed his cheek.

This first Council soon became, as may be easily imagined, a theme for the poet and a subject for the painter: Sir David Wilkie made a representation of it in a large picture, which appeared in the Exhibition of the Royal Academy, in the summer of 1838. Many portraits of the illustrious members of the Council, including the royal Uncles, the Duke of Wellington, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sir Robert Peel, the chief Ministers of State, the Lord Mayor Kelly, &c., may here be recognised; the Queen herself being decidedly the best amongst them. Her Majesty is seated at the head of the Council-table, holding her declaration in one hand and a pen with which she is about to sign it in the other. The scene, as placed upon the canvas is a precise representation of that which took place in the grand saloon in Kensington Palace, on the morning of the memorable 20th of June, 1837; except that her Majesty appears, by her own desire, in a white dress instead of a black one which she actually wore, because she considered that

being the only female present, the contrast of her figure with the sombre habits of the Counsellors by whom she was surrounded, would impart life and variety to the piece, adding greatly to its effect. She appears entirely unadorned—her hair, as she usually wears it, plainly braided over her forehead. The whole figure is dignified in its simplicity, though the countenance is by no means so pretty as the august Original.

With the following poetical sketch this interesting scene may be closed :—

I CHANCED, of late, to see—in that sweet time,
 When woman's years are in their dewy prime—
 A gentle Girl, with careful nurture tended,
 Like some choice plant from blight or frost defended ;
 Upgrowing by a widowed mother's side—
 That widowed mother's hope, and joy, and pride.

Fair was the maid ; yet did no gesture show
 That consciousness of beauty lurked below :
 High was her lineage ; yet no look of pride
 Her sweet humility of speech belied :
 Her mind was with all fitting knowledge fed,
 And wise instructors on her spirit shed
 Whate'er might lend a grace to womanhood,
 Or minister to her immortal good.
 Much loved she the historic page t' unfold
 There, where great Alfred's glories stand enroll'd ;
 Where Edward's unripe graciousness is seen,
 And the bright records of the " Virgin Queen,"

Now scattering terror on her foes around,
Now of her country's faith firm bulwark found,
She hurls the proud Armada to the winds,
While to her breast the Gospel truth she binds.
These, as she pondered, oft might be discerned
Aspiring thoughts that in her bosom burned;
And oft the kindled eye, and glowing brow
And quick-drawn breath, and starting tear, would show
That high resolves and hopes did spring and bloom below.

In those high musings and ennobling joys,
The gentle Girl each sunny hour employs.
The summer-sun went down—again his light
Breaks on her happy dreams—when, lo! what sight
Salutes him, springing from his golden bed—
A mighty nation mourns her Monarch dead!
Hark! the deep death-peal rolls throughout the land;
Life's worn and shattered wheels arrested stand.
No festive echoes shake the regal hall,
The banner droops upon the castle wall;
Rich in renown, and ripe in well-spent years,
The Sovereign sleeps amidst his subject's tears.

“Haste to the Council,” now is heard the cry;
A nation brooks no pause in fealty;
Grief for the royal dead must briefly yield,
While duty to the living is fulfilled:
I join the train—(I bear no courtly name,
Yet in my bosom burns a loyal flame).
In long array, with solemn looks, they stand,
The noblest spirits of a noble land;

Men, grey in council, hewn in battles, torn
 By faction's conflicts, or with study worn;
 All duteous crowd before their Chief to kneel,
 And haste their heart's deep loyalty to seal.

But whom the prompt allegiance does await?
 Where stands the mighty Atlas of the state?
 What chief, in action bold, in council wise?
 What hero of a hundred victories?
 I looked: that gentle Girl! what does she here?
 Why drops she not apart the duteous tear?
 Alone, the Maid! Why stands not by her side
 That Mother—by her hope, and joy, and pride?
 I looked again: still is unfilled that seat
 Due to the wise, the bold, the good, the great.
 She moves, with pensive look and lowly mien:
 Upon the regal seat the Maid is seen:
 And lo! that gentle Girl is Britain's Queen!

She speaks—attention holds enchained the ear,
 And these the gracious accents that I hear—
 “Unskilled in wisdom, called by Heaven's command,
 Unripe in years, to rule this mighty land,
 My spirit trembles at the awful trust—
 I feel myself a feeble child of dust:
 Yet does my hope in God sustain this heart.—
 Vain were all strength or wisdom, Him apart:
 'Tis by His arm the mightiest monarchs reign,
 Nor shall the weakest seek His aid in vain.

FIRST REGAL REQUEST.

Her Majesty having thus beautifully despatched her first essay in state business, returned to the society of her Mother ; and, throwing herself into a chair, ruminated for some minutes on the vast change which the mournful event of the morning had made in her situation and present destination. At length, addressing herself to the Duchess, she said, " I can scarcely believe, Mamma, that I am Queen of England ; but suppose I really am so, am I not ? " " You know, my love, you are : you have just left a scene which must have assured you of it." " And in time," replied her Majesty, " I shall become accustomed to my change of character ; meanwhile, since it is really so, and you see in your little daughter the Sovereign of this great country, will you grant her the first request she has had occasion in her regal capacity to put to you ? I wish, my dear Mamma, to be left for two hours alone." The Duchess, of course, complied with this wish, so earnestly expressed by her august daughter and Sovereign ; but it is an extraordinary fact, that the day of her accession was the first on which maternal solicitude had ever suffered its interesting object to be left, even for a minute, alone ; since that day, however, scarcely

one has passed without the young Queen taking refuge for some time, occasionally for hours, in the privacy of her boudoir, alone, and with the key turned against intruders.

THE PROCLAMATION AT ST. JAMES'S.

On the 21st of June, which by a curious coincidence, was also the anniversary of the battle of Vittoria, her Majesty Alexandrina-Victoria was publicly proclaimed in the Metropolis, Queen of the United Kingdoms of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith.

Some doubts were at first entertained as to whether her Majesty would honour St. James's Palace with her royal presence for the purpose of this ceremony ; but late on the evening of the 20th, orders were received to the effect that her Majesty would follow the example of most of her illustrious predecessors, and present herself to her loving subjects at the accustomed spot. At an early hour, therefore, every thing within and about the precincts of the Palace betokened activity and excitement.

Soon after eight o'clock, several of the officers of the Court, dressed in their state attire, arrived, and were followed at intervals by all those parties, noble and gentle, whose assistance is required on

such an occasion. At nine, the household troops mounted guard in the Court-yard, having marched in without the usual accompaniment of the band playing. Shortly afterwards, the Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal of England, accompanied by Sir William Woods, K. H., T. S. A., Clarencieux King of Arms, and attended by the four Pursuivants, Portcullis, Rouge Croix, Blue Mantle, and Rouge Dragon, each-attired in his respective robes, appeared at the window of the Guard-room.

Long before ten o'clock, all the avenues to the Palace were crowded; every balcony, window, and elevated position being filled with spectators. The space in the Quadrangle, in front of the window of the Presence Chamber at which her Majesty was to appear, was thronged with ladies and gentlemen, mostly dressed in black, all of whom manifested the greatest anxiety to approach within as short a distance as possible of the spot at which their new and youthful Queen was to present herself to their longing gaze. The consequence was, that had not some judicious rules been previously laid down, the extent of room necessary for the due performance of the ceremony could not have been procured. Strongly, therefore, was disappointment depicted on their countenances when a party of Police stepped forward, and intimated the necessity there was for them to retire some fifty or sixty yards. A slight murmur escaped from several of the fair sex, but was instantly chased away by an evident de-

sire on the part of the authorities not to press their orders too strictly. The result was that the ladies, many of whom were without any male protectors, were soon observed to be standing in a line with the front open row of Police. By this arrangement all obstacle to a clear view of the Queen was obviated. This position being taken, the ladies once more clothed their faces in smiles, and perfect tranquillity and harmony again reigned.

Scarcely had this arrangement been effected ere a troop of the 1st Regiment of Life Guards took their stations, and drew up across the Quadrangle, leaving six or eight rows of the public in their front. In the more immediate centre of the space between the people and the Palace, the Royal Band of Trumpeters were placed; and on one side of the Court were to be seen the eight Sergeants-at-Arms, on horseback, each with an attendant bearing a massive mace. There was also a Guard of Honour appointed in the front of the Palace, opposite the end of St. James's Street, ready to fall into the procession to the several places where proclamation was to be made.

Meanwhile, in forwarding the arrangements for the Queen's removal, a little anecdote is related, illustrative at once of the simplicity and good sense which distinguishes her Majesty's character. The Earl of Albemarle, Master of the Horse, having applied to her for instructions as to the carriages, the state, &c., in which she would wish to proceed from Ken-

sington to St. James's, her Majesty replied, "Really, my Lord Albemarle, you are so much accustomed to these matters, and they are so entirely new to me, that I must beg you to use your own discretion in the arrangements necessary on this occasion." It having become known in the neighbourhood that her Majesty would go to St. James's in the course of the morning, numbers of well-dressed persons stationed themselves at an early hour in the Palace avenue and along the high road, for the purpose of witnessing her departure. Shortly before nine o'clock, a large detachment of the Royal Horse Guards (Blue) arrived at the Palace from the Barracks in the Regent's Park, and took up their station in the Palace Green, opposite the entrance to the Court Yard. They were soon followed by a detachment of the Life Guards from Knightsbridge Barracks, who took up position along the west side of the Palace avenue. A few minutes after nine o'clock, the private state carriage of his late Majesty, and two other royal carriages, each drawn by two horses, the servants in splendid state liveries, proceeded from the Royal Mews at Pimlico to Kensington Palace, where they arrived about half-past nine o'clock. Their appearance along the road drew out hundreds of persons from Pimlico and Knightsbridge, who hastened to meet the procession. Exactly at a quarter to ten o'clock, the equipage drew up at the great door of the hall leading to the Duchess of Kent's apartments, and

almost immediately afterwards the cavalcade moved in the following order :—

THREE OF THE LIFE GUARDS.

SIX OF THE LIFE GUARDS.

A ROYAL CARRIAGE, CONTAINING THE MARQUIS
OF CONYNTHAM, LORD CHAMBERLAIN, AND
EARL OF ALBEMARLE, MASTER OF
THE HORSE.

DETACHMENT OF THE LIFE GUARDS.

THE PRIVATE STATE CARRIAGE, CONTAINING HE
MAJESTY, THE DUCHESS OF KENT,
AND LADY CONROY.

DETACHMENT OF THE ROYAL HORSE GUARDS,
BLUE.

A ROYAL CARRIAGE, CONTAINING
SIR JOHN CONROY AND LADY FLORA HASTINGS.

A PARTY OF THE LIFE GUARDS.

At the time of her Majesty's departure, the Court-yard was crowded with persons, by whom she was most enthusiastically cheered ; which marks of public esteem were gracefully acknowledged by her Majesty, who occupied the seat in the carriage

hitherto invariably appropriated to her illustrious Mother. During her progress down the avenue, and until she turned into the Park, the air resounded with huzzas, and cries of "Long live the Queen ;" and as the cavalcade proceeded along the whole road, the most affectionate demonstrations of attachment and loyalty were offered to her Majesty by the assembled crowds, increasing as it approached St. James's, until the multitude poured forth a continuous cry of "Long live the Queen—God bless our youthful Queen, long may she live." Although her Majesty looked tolerably well, her cheeks were not tinted with their usual bloom, and her countenance presented an expression of anxiety and grief, without, however, showing the slightest evidence of that excitement which might naturally have been expected. Indeed, her whole bearing on this her first short passage through the ranks of her assembled subjects, was such as to ensure their warmest approbation and respect. It was affable and dignified—remote alike from a haughty indifference to popular applause, and a too eager enjoyment of the intoxicating draught.

The near approach of the Queen to St. James's was made known to the several Officers of State, and the Members of the Administration, just at the moment when they had assembled in the window of the Tapestry-room. As soon as the intimation had been conveyed to these personages, they instantly went down to receive their Sovereign.

Precisely at ten o'clock, the band struck up the National Anthem ; the Park and Tower guns fired a double royal salute, and the Queen, led by the Marquis of Landsdowne, President of the Council, came forward to the opened window. The appearance of her Majesty was the signal for the loudest exclamations of joy and clapping of hands, the ladies waving their handkerchiefs, and the gentlemen their hats, in the air. The Queen, completely overcome by her affecting situation, in conjunction with the eventful occurrences of the preceding day, the instant the first fervent shout of gratulation fell upon her ear, burst into tears ; and notwithstanding her earnest endeavours to restrain them, they continued to flow in torrents down her now pallid cheeks, until she retired from the window ; her Majesty, nevertheless, curtsied many times in acknowledgment of her grateful sense of the devotion of her people. She was dressed in deep mourning, with a white tippet, white cuffs, and a border of white lace under a small black bonnet, which, being placed far back on her head, did not the least impede the view of her countenance, but exhibited her light hair simply parted over her forehead.

Meanwhile the Heralds and Pursuivants, dismounted and uncovered, had taken up their accustomed station immediately beneath the window at which the Queen was standing, and silence being obtained, Clarencieux King of Arms, Sir William

Woods, in the absence of Garter King at Arms, Sir Ralph Bigland, read the Proclamation issued at Kensington Palace on the preceding day,* containing the formal and official announcement of the demise of King William the Fourth, and of the consequent accession of QUEEN ALEXANDRINA VICTORIA to the throne of these realms. At first the cheering prevented the Proclamation being heard; but the latter part of it was very distinctly given; and at the words, "God save the Queen," Sir William gave the signal by waving his sceptre; loud and enthusiastic cheering followed, which her Majesty graciously and frequently acknowledged. The instant Clarencieux had terminated this portion of his labours, a flourish of trumpets was blown, and the Park and Tower guns again fired a salute, in token that the ceremony of proclamation had been accomplished.

The spectacle presented to the eye of such as had the good fortune to be within view of the Presence-chamber windows, during this memorable quarter of an hour, was one of a singularly beautiful and affecting description. In the centre stood a female Monarch of tender years, suddenly summoned to assume the difficult and perilous office of earthly ruler and preserver of the interests of a great Nation—in this position stood a youthful Queen bathed in tears, and nearly overwhelmed by the more immediate pressure of the circumstances by

*See Page 436.

which she was surrounded, and the warm and heartfelt outpourings of a willing and devoted people. Directly on her Majesty's right hand, but slightly on the back-ground was the Marquis of Landsdowne, the President of the Council ; to her left, stood Viscount Melbourne, her Majesty's first Minister of State. Close behind, forming a semi-circle, were to be seen nearly if not all the Members of her Majesty's Government and Household. Amongst these, and also occupying the other two windows of the apartment, were recognized the King of Hanover, the Dukes of Sussex and Wellington, Lords Hill, Combemere, Denbigh, and Albemarle ; Viscount Duncannon, Privy Seal ; Mr. Spring Rice, Chancellor of the Exchequer ; the Duke of Argyll, Lord Steward ; the Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal ; the Marquis of Winchester, Groom of the Stole ; the Marquis of Conyngham, Lord Chamberlain ; Lord C. Fitz-Roy, Vice-Chamberlain ; Sir William Freemantle, Treasurer of the Household ; the Hon. G. S. Byng, Comptroller ; Sir Edward Corderington, Sir William Houston, and a number of other Lords and Gentlemen, with several Ladies. A little on the right of the Marquis of Landsdowne, stood her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, who watched with intense anxiety and interest every movement of her illustrious Sovereign and Daughter : her Royal Highness, during one part of the ceremony, appeared to be deeply affected.

The Queen, when the excess of her emotion had in some degree subsided, evidently took great interest in all the proceedings connected with the ceremony, and asked a variety of questions respecting them of those who immediately surrounded her. At its conclusion, her Majesty withdrew to the Throne-room for the purpose of holding a Privy Council, at which a vast deal of official business was gone through. The Queen, afterwards, retiring to the Royal Closet, received there the Archbishops of Canterbury, York, and Dublin, with many of the Bishops and Judges, all of whom had the honour of kissing her Majesty's hand.

At ten minutes past one, her Majesty returned to Kensington. The cavalcade was in the same order as when she left, with the exception that her Majesty's carriage was the last, and that in it were only the Queen and the Duchess of Kent. The crowds assembled between the two Palaces had now greatly increased ; carriages of every description occupied the entire road, and the number of pedestrians was immense. Her Majesty bowed to those who met her eye ; but did not sit prominently forward. On her arrival at Kensington Palace, the Queen was again greeted with demonstrations of loyalty by the persons collected near it ; numbers of whom waited about during the afternoon, it having been reported that her Majesty would show herself at the window. They were, however, disappointed.

The feelings of our interesting young Queen, as exhibited on this occasion, are pathetically alluded to, in some Stanzas published in "The Athenæum" of the 8th of July, 1837, and entitled—

VICTORIA'S TEARS.

" O Maiden, heir of kings,
A King has left his place ;
The majesty of Death has swept
All other from his face.
And thou, upon thy Mother's breast,
No longer lean adown—
But take the glory for the rest,
And rule the land that loves thee best."
The Maiden wept ;
She wept to wear a crown.

They decked her courtly halls—
They reined her hundred steeds—
They shouted at her palace gate,
" A noble Queen succeeds !"
Her name has stirred the mountain's sleep,
Her praise has filled the town :
And mourners, God had stricken deep,
Looked hearkening up, and did not weep !
Alone she wept,
Who wept to wear a crown !

She saw no purples shine,
For tears had dimmed her eyes :
She only knew her childhood's flowers
Were happier pageantries !
And while the heralds played their part,
For million shouts to drown—
“ God save the Queen,” from hill to mart—
She heard through all her beating heart,
And turned and wept ;
She wept, to wear a crown !

God save thee, weeping Queen,
Thou shalt be well beloved !
The tyrant's sceptre cannot move,
As those pure tears have moved !
The nature, in thine eyes we see,
Which tyrants cannot own—
The love that guardeth liberties.
Strange blessing on the Nation lies,
Whose Sovereign wept,
Yea, wept to wear its crown.

God bless thee, weeping Queen,
With blessing more divine ;
And fill with better love than earth's
That tender heart of thine ;
That when the throne of earth shall be
As low as graves brought down,
A pierced hand may give to thee,
The crown which Angels shout to see.
Thou wilt not weep
To wear that heavenly crown.

E. B. BARRETT.

OATHS OF ALLEGIANCE.

On the morning of the accession, the House of Lords assembled at a quarter past ten o'clock. When prayers had been read by the Bishop of Salisbury, the few Peers who were present took the oaths of allegiance and supremacy to her Majesty Queen Alexandrina Victoria, and signed the parliamentary roll ; after which the House adjourned, but met again at three in the afternoon, when the oaths were administered to upwards of fifty Peers.

In the Commons, a considerable number of Members entered the House at twelve o'clock, but the Speaker did not appear before a quarter to one ; he immediately proceeded to the head of the table, and took the oath of allegiance to her Majesty Queen Alexandrina Victoria, saving the rights of any issue of his late Majesty King William the Fourth, which may be born of his late Majesty's Consort. He then took his seat in the chair, and the Chief Clerk called on the Members present, beginning with the representatives of the City of London, to take the oaths of allegiance and supremacy to her Majesty. About a hundred and fifty Members were present at this period ; they advanced to the table in groups of fifty, in the order in which they had inscribed their names. The Roman Catholic Members took the oaths appropriate to them, in groups by them-

selves. About three hundred and twenty Members were sworn in at four o'clock, when the House adjourned.

At the Privy Council, however, it was observed that her Majesty had signed by the name of VICTORIA only, and this circumstance created no ordinary bustle in both Houses of Parliament, as the printed forms of oaths placed on the table described her Majesty as Queen "Alexandrina Victoria," and it became requisite to alter the forms by striking out the name "Alexandrina." In the Lords there arose a still more formidable difficulty, as the parliamentary roll had been prepared for the signature of Peers who had taken the oaths of fidelity and allegiance to her Majesty Queen "Alexandrina Victoria." New parchments for an amended description were obliged to be procured, and thereby some little delay was occasioned in administering the oaths to the remainder of the Peers.

ALTERATIONS IN THE LITURGY.

The Gazette of the 23d of June, announced that her Majesty had been pleased to declare in Council her royal will and pleasure, that in all the prayers, liturgies, and collects for the King, instead of the word "King," the word "Queen;" instead of the word "William," the word "Victoria;" instead

of the words "our Sovereign Lord," the words "our Sovereign Lady;" be inserted: and that in all the prayers, liturgies, and collects so altered, such change of the pronouns "he," "him," and "his" be made, as will be, by those alterations, rendered necessary.

Her Majesty was further pleased to declare her royal will and pleasure, that in all the prayers, liturgies, and collects for the Royal Family, the words "Adelaide, the Queen Dowager," be substituted for the words "our gracious Queen Adelaide."

THE QUEEN'S RETIREMENT AT KENSINGTON.

It is not the intention of this work to enter into a Memoir, either historical or political, of the reign of the Queen Victoria; but merely to record, for the amusement and gratification of the general reader, together with notices of her private life, such anecdotes and traits as are illustrative of the character of that august Personage: and, although all the events of her future life must be in some measure public, and even historical, still, it being the object here to dwell chiefly upon those circumstances connected with it, which will be laid least stress upon by the historian and politician, all those formalities connected with the government of the country, which are consequent upon a change of

reign are passed over, to observe the deportment of the youthful Monarch, so recently called from the enjoyment of domestic and social life, to the high, responsible duties, inseparable from her present exalted station.

From the period of the accession to that of the royal funeral, the Queen resided in entire privacy at Kensington Palace, quitting her apartments there only for her daily airing, and when public business required her presence at St. James's. During the whole of this time, the avenue to the Palace was always thronged with the residents of the town, and visitors to the Gardens, at the time that her Majesty usually rode out in her open barouche and four, always accompanied by her royal Mother, and generally by her sister-in-law, the Princess of Leiningen; who with the Prince, her Husband, and and two young children, were on a visit to the Duchess and her Daughter at the time of the King's decease. The departure and return of the Queen upon these occasions were invariably hailed with loud and fervent greetings; and her Majesty returned them with a condescending grace, which interested every heart in her behalf. On Sunday also the little chapel of the Palace was crowded to excess, but here disappointment ensued; her Majesty, with good taste and delicacy, avoided any occasion of public appearance during this interval, and on each returning Sabbath, her reverend preceptor, the Dean of Chester, performed Divine

Service in the private apartments before the young Queen, her Mother, and household.

On the Monday succeeding King William's death, her Majesty proceeded to Windsor, for the purpose of personally offering her affectionate condolences to her widowed Aunt; her intention, however, not having been made public, no demonstration of loyalty beyond the respectful recognition of passengers on the road took place on this occasion.

Her Majesty left Kensington about ten o'clock, accompanied by her illustrious Mother, in an open barouche and four, attended by outriders, and escorted by a party of Lancers. She was followed by another carriage, containing the ladies and equerry in waiting. The Royal Party entered Windsor with the greatest privacy; passing over Datchet Bridge, and through the Home Park, they drove immediately to the Castle, without entering the town. Having alighted at the grand entrance, her Majesty was immediately introduced to the Queen Dowager, with whom she remained in private conference upwards of an hour; and soon after one, took her departure in the same unostentatious manner in which she had arrived. The inhabitants of Hammersmith, Brentford, and Hounslow, had entered into arrangements for some public display of their attachment to her royal Person, on her Majesty's second passage through those towns; but their design was frustrated by the

return of the cavalcade a full hour sooner than had been calculated upon. The affecting nature of the interview which had taken place between the illustrious Ladies might be in some degree imagined, from the effect it had evidently taken upon the young Queen's mind ; she leant back in her carriage with her black crape veil drawn closely over her face, which was altogether concealed from the spectators, who had congregated in considerable numbers on the road ; and, on her arrival at the Palace, her countenance bore strong marks of the emotion to which the melancholy circumstances of her visit had given rise. Nor was this the effect of a mere momentary impression ; for it was many days before her Majesty's mind resumed that calmness and composure which had previously possessed it ; and her usual airings and other trivial recreations were, for a time, wholly laid aside. Crowds still continued to throng the purlieus of the Palace ; but it was not till within a day or two of the royal funeral that her Majesty was again visible to her affectionate subjects, who hailed her re-appearance amongst them with redoubled expressions of love and loyalty.

Some anecdotes are related of the Queen's conduct during this brief period, which place the kindness and benevolence of her character in the most striking point of view.

ATTENTION TO THE QUEEN DOWAGER.

On the morning of the 21st, previously to the proclamation, her Majesty gave audience to the Marquis of Conyngham, who was the bearer of a message from the Queen Dowager, stating her wish to reside in the Castle till after the funeral; also of a respectful request from the Earl of Munster, that the members of the Fitz-Clarence family might remain there during the same period: to the former message her Majesty promptly and kindly replied, "The Queen's wish is my desire:" and the latter request, having the concurrence of Queen Adelaide, met also with a ready and gracious acquiescence.

A few days afterwards, Colonel Wood, one of the executors of King William, waited upon the Queen, relative to the disposal of some of his late Majesty's property; and in the course of conversation, made some proposition on the subject, in a tone of voice indicating an expectation of her Majesty's assent. The Queen, however, was silent, and after a pause of a few moments, Col. Wood observed that he had another favour to beg of her Majesty:—the Queen Dowager had a great partiality for a few trifling articles of furniture which had been favourites with her lamented Consort, but which she did not wish to disturb or to remove from Windsor Castle without leave. Her Majesty, with great emotion, immediately replied, "Oh,

Colonel, let the dear Queen have them by all means, and any thing else in the Castle which she may desire." But upon the Colonel recurring to his former proposition, and respectfully requesting her Majesty's acquiescence in it, the Queen, with much firmness said,—“ I would rather think about that matter first; perhaps I shall let you know to-morrow my determination on the subject.”

On the return of Queen Adelaide's birth-day, the young Queen not only addressed her congratulations on the return of the day, couched in the most beautiful and affecting terms, by letter to her royal Aunt, but presented her, as a token of her love, with an exquisite miniature of herself, by Collen—perfect, both as a work of art, and as a likeness of the august original—set in an armlet of solid gold.

A further instance of her Majesty's affectionate attention to Queen Adelaide, and of the amiability of her disposition, occurred in the subsequent Spring. The Queen Dowager is passionately fond of flowers, and during the last year of her residence at Windsor, she planted some violets of a particular kind in those beautiful gardens near the Castle, called the slopes. It was during Queen Victoria's visit to Windsor in the Easter week, that the violets bloomed for the first time; and as soon as her Majesty was informed of it, she gathered a handful, and sent them off by express to Marlborough House, requesting Queen Adelaide to receive the first offering of the flowers which she herself had planted.

THE DUCHESS OF NORTHUMBERLAND'S AUDIENCE.

Her Majesty, who cherished a fond attachment for her noble Governess, was naturally desirous to see her immediately after her accession ; and accordingly appointed the very next day for her Grace's audience. It was represented to the Queen, by the state attendants, that so great a change having taken place between the relative positions of the Sovereign and her noblest subjects, her Majesty should receive the Duchess seated, and with the dignity becoming the Queen of this great empire in bestowing a mark of especial favour upon a lady of her court. Her Majesty reluctantly assented, and seated herself in due form in the chair of state ; but no sooner was the door thrown open, and the Duchess of Northumberland announced, than all recollection of regal dignity was lost in the overflowing affections of her heart ; and spontaneously rising, she ran to meet the Duchess, threw her arms round her neck, and kissed her with all the frankness and warmth which her amiable nature prompted.

On a more recent occasion, when the Duchess returned last Winter from her annual residence at Alnwick Castle, the Queen desired that if her Grace called to leave her card, announcing her arrival in town, she should be requested to alight, as her Majesty wished to see her. The Duchess did call, just as the Royal party were about to mount their horses for their accustomed airing ; and it was particu-

larly requested by those around the Queen, that she would not suffer her Grace's presence to interfere with her salutary exercise: her Majesty gave no heed to those intreaties, but desired that her horses might be dismissed, and the Duchess immediately ushered in. The Queen received her with her usual hearty embrace; and then, turning to the attendants present, said, "you may all retire; and recollect, I must not be interrupted until I summon you." Her Majesty thus enjoyed a delightful private chat with her beloved friend for upwards of two hours.

KINDNESS TO HUMBLE FRIENDS.

A poor man of the name of William Smith, who had, for the last six or seven years, swept the crossing opposite the avenue leading to Kensington Palace, and whom her Majesty had always kindly noticed, rarely passing through the gates without throwing him some silver from the carriage window, received a communication on the morning after that of the Queen's accession, informing him that her Majesty had ordered that, in future, an allowance of eight shillings weekly should be regularly paid him; and accordingly he continued to receive it until the period of his death, which, however, happened within six months of the commencement of his pension.

A man named Hillman, who served in the capacity of porter to the late Duke of Kent, and who was accustomed to assist the Queen, when a child, into the carriage, has long since been pensioned by the Duchess of Kent, and is not a little gratified by receiving a nod of recognition from her Majesty whenever he chances to pass her carriage. The aged man has a daughter much afflicted, having been confined to her bed for the last eight years. On the evening of the late King's funeral, this young woman was equally surprised and pleased to receive, from Queen Victoria, a present of the Psalms of David ; and within the volume a marker, worked by herself, with a dove, the emblem of peace, in the centre: it pointed to the forty-first psalm, which her Majesty requested she would read, expressing a hope that its frequent perusal might bring an increase of peace to her mind.

REMOVAL TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

On Saturday, the 8th of July, the mortal remains of the good King William were committed to the tomb, amidst the tears of the nation ; and on the 13th of the same month, his youthful successor emerged from her temporary retirement at Kensington to take up her permanent abode at Buckingham Palace, which had, as it were, been prepared by her immediate predecessor for her especial ac-

commodation. King George the Fourth, under whose auspices the building had been commenced, did not live to witness its completion ; and his royal Brother, though desirous from time to time to establish his residence in it, could only succeed so far as to place it in such a state of forwardness as that the Queen's command firmly given, about a fortnight previously, that she should dine there on the 13th, could, by the most strenuous exertion, be obeyed. To accomplish this purpose, upwards of three hundred workmen were engaged in completing the fittings-up of the interior, besides those employed in affixing the superb ornamental gates enriched with mosaic gold to the marble arch of entrance. These gates are believed to be the largest and most splendid in Europe, not excepting even the great gates of the Ducal Palace at Venice, hitherto esteemed the most remarkable for their size. The cost, by contract, of the new gates, including the circular railings fixed on each side of the arch, was £10,000 ; and the whole expense of this entrance, including the archway, amounted to considerably more than £70,000. Four exceedingly handsome new lamps, made to correspond with the gates, and surmounted by crowns, were also placed over the two private entrances to the Palace.

Of all the costly furniture with which the state apartments have been hitherto adorned, the throne, erected under the Queen's immediate superintend-

ance, in the Royal Hall of Audience, is by far the most magnificent. The platform, upon which the gorgeous chair is placed, is sixteen feet long by ten wide, and raised three steps from the floor. It is covered with crimson velvet pile carpeting, over which a canopy is suspended, eighteen feet in height, decorated with the rose, thistle, and shamrock, interwoven with foliage, and surmounted with a beautifully carved crown and cushion. The drapery is composed of the richest crimson velvet, of English manufacture, lined with lutestring of the same colour. The tester is composed of velvet, pannelled with a broad oak-leaf and acorn, gold lace trimming, and a massive gold rope. Similar decorations are used in forming the drapery of the inside vallance. The vallance on the outside is of a different design, is trimmed with two rows of gold lace, and finished with a deep gold fringe. The curtains, which are exceedingly full, are finished in a similar manner, and are looped up with a gold rope and tassels—the whole forming one of the most beautiful structures imaginable. The chair is covered with crimson velvet, embroidered with rows of deep gold lace, and is also richly carved and gilt. The footstool corresponds, in colour and magnificence, with the decorations above and around the throne. This throne was erected to enable her Majesty to receive addresses and hold Privy Councils at Buckingham Palace, at the same time that Levees and Drawing-rooms continue to be held at St. James's; the suite

of state rooms being better adapted to the latter purpose at the old than at the new Palace.

But whilst her Majesty devoted so much care to the interior apartments of her future Metropolitan abode, the gardens and parks which surround it were not forgotten. No sooner was the royal residence established at Buckingham House, than the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, acting upon plans executed by the Queen's own hand, and remarkable for the taste and judgment in arrangement which they displayed, gave orders for the immediate employ of several hundred persons, for laying out, not only the spacious grounds immediately adjoining Buckingham Palace, but also a great portion of the Green Park; the improvements in which will, it is understood, be in suite with those of St. James's Park, executed under the tasteful and discriminating eye of George the Fourth. A full view of both parks is commanded from the window of her Majesty's private apartments; and, except from these windows, no adequate idea can be formed of the extreme beauty of the landscape below.

It was greatly to the regret of the inhabitants of Kensington, that her Majesty and her illustrious Mother took their departure from their immediate neighbourhood. Half-past one was the hour appointed for the removal; long previous to which time an immense concourse of respectable persons had thronged the avenues and every open space near the Palace, from whence a view of the departure of

the august personages could be obtained. Shortly after one, an escort of Lancers took up a position on the Palace Green ; and, precisely at half-past, an open landau, drawn by four grey horses, preceded by two out-riders, and followed by an open barouche, drawn by four bay horses, the servants in royal livery, arrived from the Queen's mews at Pimlico ; and about ten minutes afterwards they drew up at the grand entrance to the Duchess of Kent's apartments. The Queen, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent and the Baroness Lehzen, almost immediately entered the first carriage, amid the deafening cheers and salutations of the numerous crowd, which were acknowledged with the greatest kindness and condescension. In the second carriage were the Marchioness of Tavistock and Colonel Cavendish.

The Queen looked pale, and a shade of sorrow sat upon her countenance, which excited no surprise, since it could not be without deep and mingled emotion that our gentle-minded Sovereign quitted the residence, in which so many of the anxious as well as the happy days of her young life had been passed. The ardent features of her character were well known ; and it was not to be expected that one so constituted could leave the home of infancy and youth—the scene of early, and patient, and nobly-rewarded studies—the apartments wherein she had enjoyed the constant watchfulness of a mother's guardianship, and the blessings of maternal affec-

tion—the school-room in which her mind had been trained—the play-room in which her heart had been expanded in happy pastimes—the garden, of which she herself had been the fairest and the most fondly cherished flower—the temple in which her soul had been taught to look up to heaven, and pray that she might then live most happily for herself when she most lived for others ;—it was, indeed, impossible that a nature so enthusiastic, yet so tender, as that of our Maiden Monarch, could have passed from out those well-known walls without experiencing acute emotions, and feeling that some of our loftiest and dearest pleasures are not utterly unmingled with pain—perhaps sweetened and made richer by it. Even the rapturous and affectionate greetings of assembled crowds, whom a mere momentary glimpse of the young, but thoughtful and expressive face, which every body was so eager to gaze upon, sent away to their homes amply gratified and repaid for long waiting, could not immediately startle away those emotions. Nor could the entrance into that new habitation, now become the home of her queenly years, immediately make her forget the simple charms of her early retreat, endeared to her by so many and such lasting recollections. Into such feelings, however, the anxious gazers who thronged the road could not, of course, be supposed to enter. They saw only the departure of a beloved Queen from the residence of her childhood, to take up her abode in the National



ST. JAMES'S PARK

Palace, which, in their eyes, is consecrated as hers; and they cheered accordingly, with glad voices, that seemed to ring out of the depth of the heart.

On the same day her Majesty entertained her first dinner party at the new Palace ; and from that time it has been the constant habit of the Queen to extend the hospitality of the royal table daily to a small select party, generally consisting chiefly of of the distinguished members of the government and household.

On the Sunday following, the Queen attended Divine Service at the Chapel Royal, in St. James's Palace, for the first time. At twelve o'clock precisely, her Majesty and suite arrived in three carriages at St. James's, from the new Palace. Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, and the Countess of Mulgrave were in the same carriage with the Queen. The Lord and Groom in Waiting, received and conducted her Majesty through the state rooms to the royal closet in the Chapel Royal. The Bishop of Worcester, Clerk of the Closet, and the Dean of Hereford, and the Rev. Dr. Blomberg, Deputy Clerks of the Closet, were in attendance. The Chapel had been very lately newly and elegantly fitted up ; the furniture of the royal pew being of crimson velvet with gold trimming. A new and very fine organ had also been erected, with three rows of keys, twenty-nine stops, and three composition pedal movements. The Rev. J. C. Haden, and the Rev. R. H. Barham, Priests in

waiting, read the service ; and the Bishop of London preached the sermon. The service being ended, and the Chapel having been cleared, the Queen and her august Mother descended from the royal closet, and approached the altar, when the Bishop of London, Dean of the Chapel, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Sleath, Sub-dean, administered the holy sacrament to her Majesty and the Duchess. At twenty minutes to three o'clock the Queen left St. James's Palace, on her return to Buckingham House.

THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD.

The space which intervened between the death and funeral of the late King had been zealously employed in the formation of the new Queen's household ; and whatever difference of opinion may have existed in a political point of view with respect to the liberal principles of its chief officers, all united in agreeing that the establishment, as far as the ladies were concerned, could not but do honour to the court of a Virgin Queen. The lovely, amiable, and fascinating Duchess of Sutherland accepted the office of Mistress of the Robes ; the highly respected Marchioness of Lansdowne, that of First Lady in Waiting. The Ladies of the Bed-chamber were—the Marchioness of Tavistock, the

Marchioness of Breadalbane, the Countess of Charlemont, the Countess of Mulgrave, Lady Lyttleton, Lady Portman, and Lady Barham. Bedchamber Women—Lady Caroline Barrington, Lady Theresa Digby, Lady Charlotte Copley, Lady Harriet Clive, the Viscountess Forbes, Hon. Mrs. Brand, Hon. Mrs. Campbell, and Lady Gardiner. Maids of Honour—Miss Spring Rice, Miss Cocks, Miss Murray, Hon. Miss Dillon, Hon. Miss Pitt, Miss Cavendish, Miss Paget, and Miss Lister.

In addition to these, the Baroness Lehzen was retained about the person of the Sovereign, without any specific office; and Miss Davys, the daughter of her respected preceptor, the Dean of Chester, now Bishop of Peterborough, and the friend of her childhood, was, with much solicitation, prevailed upon to accept the appointment of Resident Woman of the Bedchamber. An anecdote relating to this young lady has been repeated in the higher circles, which reflects equal honour on herself and on her royal Mistress. The court circle were one evening engaged in friendly conversation, when some subject of discussion arose between Miss Davys and some other members of the household: the argument was carried on with amicable perseverance on both sides, much to the amusement of the Queen, who, however, took no part in the discussion. At length the party opposed to Miss Davys, observing her Majesty to be interested in the sequel, respectfully requested the royal opinion as decisive of the question.

"If," said her Majesty, "you really desire me to speak my mind, I must say I perfectly agree with Miss Davys : how, indeed, should I do otherwise ; for have we not both been educated by her Father ?"

COURTLY CEREMONIES.

The young Queen may now be said to have fairly entered upon a new era of her existence. Courts and addresses, levees and drawing-rooms, followed closely upon each other ; and it is impossible to imagine any thing more interesting than the opportunity enjoyed by some individuals of the privileged class, of contemplating the deportment, and sharing in the emotions of the lovely Novice in regality. And as but few of the readers of these sketches will, in all probability, belong to that class, some amends may perhaps be made to them by following our Sovereign in detailed relation through her first introduction to this routine of courtly ceremonials.

On the 12th of July, her Majesty, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, went in state to St. James's Palace, to receive the address of congratulation from the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Court of Common Council of the City of London, on the occasion of her accession. Her Majesty, being seated on her throne, attended by the great officers of state and the officers of the household, the Lord

Mayor and Aldermen were introduced, and passed between the ranks of her Majesty's honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms to the foot of the throne. The Recorder of London read the Address of congratulation from the Court of Aldermen, to which the Queen returned a gracious answer. The Lord Mayor and Aldermen were then severally presented, and having the honour of kissing hands, withdrew.

The Lord Mayor, Aldermen, Officers, and Members of the Court of Common Council were then introduced, when the Recorder read the address from the Court of Common Council. The Queen graciously replied, and the mover and seconder of the address had the honour to kiss hands, after which the Deputation retired.

Her Majesty then held an investiture of the military Order of the Bath. The Knights Grand Crosses of the Order having been robed in their splendid mantles, and wearing the collars of the order, passed from the Portrait Gallery to the *entrée* room, where they were called over by Bath King at Arms. The following answered to their names:— Prince Ernest of Hesse Philipsthal, the Duke of Wellington, Viscount Combermere, Lord Bloomfield, Viscount Beresford, Lord Lindock, Sir James Kemp, Sir James Whitshed, Lord Hill, Lord William Bentinck, Sir Philip Durham, Lord Strafford, Lord Howden, Lord Cowley, Sir George Murray, Sir Harry Neal, Sir Stratford Canning, Sir William

Houstoun, Sir Laurence Halsted, Sir Robert Adair, Sir George Anson, Viscount Strangford, Lord Stuart de Rothsay, the Earl of Effingham, Sir A. Campbell, Sir Robert Gordon, Sir T. Williams, Sir Graham Moore, Sir John Wells, Sir Herbert Taylor, the Earl of Minto, Sir E. Barnes, Sir Loury Cole, Sir William Clinton, Sir Edward Codrington, Sir Thomas Martin, Sir William Lumley, Sir Willoughby Gordon, Sir T. Dallas, Viscount Canterbury, the Earl of Durham, Sir C. Colville, Sir C. Bagot, Sir W. Tringle, and Sir G. Walker. The Officers of the Order present, in their mantles, chains, and badges, were—Walter Aston Blount, Esq., Genealogist; Algernon Greville, Esq., Bath King of Arms; Captain Michael Seymour, R. N., Registrar and Secretary; and Sir William Woods, Clarencieux King of Arms, acting as Gentleman Usher of the Order.

The Queen received the Knights and Officers in the Throne-room, the Knights as they advanced making their obeisances, which her Majesty graciously acknowledged. Her Majesty was attired in the mantle of the Order, and wore also its ribbon and badge.

Prince Esterhazy, the Austrian Ambassador, conducted by Sir Robert Chester, Master of the Ceremonies, was introduced by Bath King of Arms and the Gentleman Usher of the Order, between the two junior Knights, Sir L. Halstead, and the Earl of Durham. Mr. Martins, Gentleman Usher of the Sword of State, having presented it, her Majesty

with it conferred the honour of knighthood upon his Excellency. The Prince was afterwards invested by the Queen with the ribbon, badge, and star of a Knight Grand Cross of the most honourable military Order of the Bath. When his Highness came forward to receive these honours, her Majesty addressed him to the following effect :—

“ I feel infinite pleasure, and more than common interest, in presenting your Serene Excellency with this Order, not only from your long residence in this country, whose favourable opinion you have always enjoyed, and where, on all occasions, you have, by honourably upholding your high diplomatic office in your long intercourse with our Court, secured its warmest esteem. Still, I assure your Excellency, that I derive a gratification beyond all these considerations, when I reflect upon the anxious wish of his late Majesty, my dear lamented Uncle, to invest you with this Order.”

Her Majesty's ease, and graceful manner of expression, excited the admiration of the whole Court, particularly at the concluding part of her address, when she was nearly overcome by the warm and affectionate feelings of her nature.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the Knights and Officers withdrew ; and the Queen proceeded to hold a Privy Council.

Again, on the 14th, her Majesty held a Court at

St. James's Palace, for the reception of the Addresses from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and from the Metropolitan Clergy. At two o'clock, her Majesty and the Duchess of Kent, attended by the Duchess of Sutherland, left the new Palace, escorted by a party of the Life Guards, for St. James's Palace. Three carriages preceded that of her Majesty, conveying the Ladies, Equerries, and Pages in waiting, together with the Prince and Princess Leiningen.

At the same time, the Deputation from the University of Oxford arrived at the Palace, and assembled in the Ball-room : the centre doors in the suite of state rooms were soon afterwards opened, and the Deputation were ushered by Sir Frederick Smith and Mr. Martins, the Gentlemen Ushers in waiting, into the Throne-room. His grace the Duke of Wellington, in his state robes, as Chancellor of the University, was attended by the Officers, and was supported by the Deputation and Members of the University, in their respective academical costumes, to the number of three hundred and twenty.

The Queen received the Address, seated upon the the Throne, and wearing the Insignia of the Order of the Garter. On either side of her Majesty, stood their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent, the Duke of Sussex, and Prince George of Cambridge ; their Serene Highnesses the Duke of Saxe Meiningen and the Prince and Princess of Leiningen ; the Duchess of Sutherland, the Countess of Charlemont,

Miss Spring Rice, Miss Pitt, and the great Officers of State, the Lord Steward, the Lord Chamberlain, and the Master of the Horse.

At the end of the Throne-room, near to her Majesty, stood the whole of the Cabinet Ministers; the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; Lord Hill, Commander in Chief; the Captain of the Gentlemen at Arms; the Captain of the Yeomen of the Guards, and several other Officers of the Household; also, the Dukes of Newcastle, Dorset, Leeds, Devonshire, Richmond, Norfolk, Buccleuch, Grafton, and Somerset; Marquises of Hertford and Exeter, Earl Grey, the Bishop of Worcester, &c.

Her Majesty's honourable Corps of Gentlemen at Arms lined the approach to the throne; and between their ranks the Deputation advanced towards it. The Duke of Wellington, as Chancellor, read the Address of Congratulation to her Majesty on her accession to the throne, and the Queen returned a gracious answer; his Grace kissed hands, and then presented the Vice-Chancellor, the University Delegates, the Master of Baliol, the Rector of Exeter, the President of Corpus, the Provost of Ariel, the Warden of Wadham, the Principal of St. Alban's Hall; Doctors Symons, Frith, Bliss, and Wootten; Professors Ogle and Daubeny; the senior and junior Proctors, Messrs. Eastwick, Risley, Hughes, Price, Palmer, and Bloxam; who all had the honour to kiss hands. This ceremony having been gone through, the Deputation withdrew.

The Deputation from the University of Cambridge, having arrived at the Palace in similar order, were next introduced to the presence of the Queen on the throne, with the like formalities. The Marquis Camden, K. G., in his robe of office, as Chancellor of the University, was attended by the usual Officers, and accompanied by the Duke of Northumberland, K. G., High Steward of the University; the Right Hon. Henry Goulburn, and the Hon. C. E. Law, Members for the University; Sir Frederick Pollock, Commissary; the Heads of Colleges and Halls; and other members, including his Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, in his robes as D. C. L., to the number of four hundred and forty, many of whom could not obtain admission into the Throne-room, which was completely filled, but remained in the adjoining state room. The Marquis Camden read the Congratulatory Address from the University, on her Majesty's accession to the throne, to which the Queen returned a gracious reply. The principal members of the University then kissed hands, and retired.

The Bishop of London, the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, and the Clergy of London and Westminster, were afterwards ushered into the Throne-room, to present an Address, of Condolence and Congratulation, to which her Majesty also returned a gracious answer. His Lordship had the honour to kiss hands, and afterwards presented the following members of the Deputation to her Majesty,

who were also permitted the same honour :—the Archdeacon of Middlesex ; the Deans of Carlisle and Chester ; Canons Tate and Blomberg, of St. Paul's ; Rev. Mr. Milman and Rev. Mr. Jennings, Prebendaries of Westminster ; Rev Dr. Ackland, President of Sion College ; Rev. Doctors Macleod, Croly, and Vivian.

A most interesting ceremony followed. The Queen held a Chapter of the Garter, for the purpose of investing a Brother, towards whom she had always manifested a warm and sisterly affection, with the insignia of that most noble order. The Knights Companions were robed in their superb velvet mantles and the collars of the Order, and were called over by Sir William Woods, Clarencieux King of Arms, in the *entrée* room, where the following answered to their names :—their Royal Highnesses the Duke of Sussex and Prince George of Cambridge ; his Serene Highness the Duke of Saxe Meiningen ; the Dukes of Wellington, Devonshire, Newcastle, Buccleuch, Norfolk, Northumberland, Dorset, Somerset, Leeds, Richmond, Grafton ; Marquises of Hertford, Camden, Lansdowne, Exeter, and Earl Grey. The Officers of the Order present, in their respective mantles, chains, and badges, were—the Prelate, the Bishop of Winchester ; the Chancellor, the Bishop of Oxford ; the Registrar, the Dean of Windsor ; Deputy Garter, Sir William Woods, Clarencieux ; Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, Sir Augustus Clifford. The Senior Knights, followed by the Of-

ficers, and the Knights, collectively, entered the Throne-room.

The Queen was seated in the chair of state. Her Majesty wore the mantle, the collar, and the star of the Order, and on her left arm a gold enamelled armlet, having on it the motto of the Order,—
“Honi soit qui mal y pense.”

The Knights having, by the Queen's command, taken their respective places at the table, his Serene Highness the Prince of Leiningen was introduced, between Sir William Woods, Deputy Garter, and Sir A. Clifford, Usher of the Black Rod.

The Chancellor of the Order, the Bishop of Oxford, read a new Statute, which, after reciting a former Statute, of the Order, limiting the number of Knights to twenty-five, and such descendants of George the First as might be elected, announced that her Majesty, as Sovereign of the Order, had been pleased to appoint his Serene Highness the Prince of Leiningen as Knight of the most Noble Order of the Garter.

The Marquis of Lansdowne and the Duke of Somerset, the two junior knights present, conducted his Serene Highness to the Queen. Her Majesty, assisted by the two senior knights, invested the Prince first with the Garter, and afterwards with the ribbon and badge of the Order; the prelate pronouncing the usual admonition. The Prince of Leiningen having received the felicitations of all the Knights Companions, the Chapter broke up.

The Life-Guards, with their band, in state uniforms, were on duty in the large court-yard of the Palace ; while the Queen's Guard of Foot-Guards, with the band of the regiment, in the Colour-court, received the members of the Royal Family, on their arrival and departure, with the usual honours.

On the 19th, her Majesty held her first levee, and on the 20th, her first drawing-room, at St. James's Palace ; both of which were accompanied by all the customary ceremonials, were very fully attended, and crowded with presentations. Somewhat was detracted from the brilliancy of this opening court of the Maiden Queen, by the deep mourning costume which etiquette prescribed for the occasion ; the Sovereign herself was attired in a dress of black crape richly embroidered in jet, with a head-dress of feathers and jet ornaments ; the insignia of the Garter, the badge and star of which was of diamonds, decorated her breast.

On all these occasions her Majesty proceeded in state from Buckingham to St. James's Palace, with a retinue of four carriages, and an escort of Guards, and returned in the same style at the conclusion of the ceremonies ; thus adding greatly to the enjoyment, always experienced on such occasions by those classes who cannot aspire to the honour of presentation to the royal Drawing-room, but who take their share in the gaiety of the scene, by thronging the parks and streets through which the nobility pass to the Palace, and admiring the

costly equipages and brilliant costume of the Court, and who were now for the first time permitted the additional delight of seeing, though but for a moment, the sweet countenance of their beloved Sovereign, beaming from amidst the brilliancy of her drawing-room attire : nor did that countenance lose any of its attractions from the extreme resemblance it bore to the Brunswick race. The memory of George the Third is still dear to his people, who rejoice to see his calm, honest, English physiognomy renewed in his Grand-daughter. A new feature has also been observable from the commencement of the present reign, in the ceremony of the Sovereign entering the royal carriage upon state occasions ;—as soon as her Majesty has placed her foot upon the carriage-steps, the trumpeter of the escort intimates the fact by the sound of trumpet : the effect of this new custom is very pleasing, and not without its use, as it prepares the Guards for being in immediate readiness to fall in with the royal *cortège*.

Of the Queen herself it was observed, early in her reign, that “ she is winning golden opinions of all sorts of men,” by her affability, the grace of her manners, and her prettiness. She reads the answers to the Addresses well and emphatically ; her voice is clear, yet soft and sweet. Her figure, though small, is highly dignified, and surrounded by all the formalities of state, and the formidable sages of the Law, the Universities, and the Church, she yet exhibits remarkable ease, and looks the Queen.

The multiplicity of Addresses, of Condolence and congratulation, presented both publicly and privately to the Queen, upon her accession to the throne, almost exceeds belief: a mere list of the counties, towns, boroughs, parishes, and societies, whose sentiments of loyalty are thus recorded, would undoubtedly fill many of these pages: of necessity therefore they are altogether omitted here; although it is with great regret that those emanating from the Church, that first and dearest of our national institutions, are passed over without notice.

On the 31st, her Majesty received, at Buckingham Palace, the Lord Mayor and a Deputation from the Corporation of the City of London, appointed to invite her Majesty to dine at the Guildhall, when she was graciously pleased to accept the invitation, and to appoint the 9th day of November for the partaking of the hospitality of her loyal City of London.

THE ORDER OF THE GARTER WORN BY FEMALES.

The Queen appointed an interview with the Duke of Norfolk, preparatory to investing her Brother with the insignia of the Garter, for the purpose of acquainting herself minutely with the etiquette to be observed in the performance of the ceremony. After the preliminaries had been arranged with the Earl Marshal, the Queen inquired, with the most amusing expression of simple *naïveté*, " Pray, my

Lord Duke, where am I to wear the Garter?" The Duke, in reply, said he recollected seeing some print of Queen Anne, in which the Garter was placed on her left arm. By reference to various authorities, that fact was established beyond a doubt; and her Majesty has accordingly so worn it upon all occasions of state.

Anstey, treating of the robes of the Order, in his Register, Vol. 1, page 128, after giving a list of noble ladies upon whom, as it appears, the honour of the Garter was conferred, says,—

"I shall now dismiss the subject by showing that these ladies had not only the habit of the Order, which was *semee* of Garters, which were more or less, according to their degrees; but that they, like as the Knights, had also the ensign of the Garter delivered to them. The records are express in this particular."

In the roll of "New-year's Gifts," 18 Henry VI. we find:—

"Item.—To my Lady of Gloucester, the same day, a garter of gold, barred through with barres of gold, and this reson mood with letters of gold there-upon, 'Hony soit quy mal y pense,' and garnished with a floure of diamonds on the bokell, and ij gret perl and a ruby on the pendant, and ij gret perl with other 26 perl on the said garter."

“ 'Tis probable,” adds Mr. Anstey, “ that these garters might be worn by them above the left arm, as Mr. Ashmole tells us the Countess of Tankerville is represented by the effigies on her monument : to which may be added that of the lady of Sir Robert Harcourt, in the church near Stanton Harcourt, in Oxfordshire, who is pictured on her tomb, with the garter just above the elbow, on her left arm, with the motto ‘ *Hony soit qui mal y pense.*’ Whereas, at this time, there is no visible badge or distinction for these ladies ; and even the knights do not impale the arms of their consorts within the garter, though there are several ancient precedents on the plates in the stalls, where the ladies’ arms are inserted within it.”

It would seem that no period could have been found more suitable and appropriate, for the resumption of such rights and privileges, than that of the accession of a Maiden Queen.

THE ROYAL ARMS.

In consequence of the separation of the kingdom of Hanover from the British empire, upon the accession of the Queen, her Majesty issued a proclamation, dated from her court at Buckingham Palace, July 26th, 1837, to the effect that—

“ Whereas, King George the Third had, in the

year 1801, declared by proclamation, that with the Arms or Armorial Ensigns of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, there should be borne on an escutcheon of pretence the arms of his Majesty's dominions in Germany, ensigned with the electoral bonnet ; and whereas his said Majesty having, in the year 1816, substituted for his ancient title, Elector of the Holy Roman Empire, the title of King of Hanover, it was thought fit that an alteration, should be made in his Majesty's arms ; and it was accordingly declared, by Royal Proclamation, that instead of the Arms of his Majesty's dominions in Germany, ensigned with the Electoral bonnet, as directed by his Majesty's proclamation above mentioned, there should thenceforth be used and borne with the Arms or Armorial Ensigns of his Majesty's said United Kingdom, on an escutcheon of pretence, the Arms of his Majesty's dominions in Germany, ensigned with the Hanoverian Royal Crown. And whereas, upon the demise of his late most sacred Majesty, the German dominions of his late Majesty have passed from the Crown of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and devolved upon his Royal Highness Prince Ernest Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, now King of Hanover ; her Majesty, by and with the advice of her Privy Council, has thought fit to declare that henceforth the shield or escutcheon of pretence, representing his late Majesty's dominions in Germany, and ensigned with the Hanoverian Royal Crown, shall be omitted,

and the shield left to contain the Arms or Armorial Ensigns of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland only."

PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

Of all the regal functions the young Queen had hitherto been called upon to perform, that of the prorogation of Parliament, which took place on the 17th of July, was by far the most interesting and imposing. It was not until the appointed day had nearly arrived that it became generally known to be the Queen's intention to perform this august act of sovereignty in person; for the Duchess of Kent, and others of her Majesty's anxious friends, had vainly endeavoured to dissuade her from it, fearful of the effect the necessary excitement might take upon her health. Her Majesty, however, disapproved of the idea of excitement. "That is a word," said she, "which I do not like to hear: all these successive ceremonies interest and please me but have no such effect upon my mind as that which I understand by the word 'excitement'."

As soon as her Majesty's pleasure was publicly announced, great exertion was made at the temporary house of Peers to complete every requisite arrangement: a number of workmen were employed in fitting up the interior, and especially in substituting for the old throne, erected at the accession

of King George the Fourth, a very splendid new one, surrounded with the words "Victoria Regina," in gold letters, and with the royal arms also in gold.

The number of applications at the Lord Chamberlain's office, for tickets to view the ceremony, was beyond precedent since the time of Queen Anne, who also prorogued Parliament, three days after her accession to the throne. This privilege, however, could be extended to but few, in comparison to the immense population who were animated with a desire to express their loyal and affectionate feelings towards the youthful Monarch, who had availed herself of this first public occasion to gratify the anxious wishes of her faithful people, by showing herself amongst them in the full state appertaining to regality.

The morning was one of intense as well as most agreeable excitement in the Metropolis, and its neighbourhood for many miles round. Before the hour of ten, numerous groups were already assembled in the vicinity of the new Palace; but St. James's Park, throughout its whole extent, became gradually crowded with respectable persons—it is believed some thousands more than had ever been known to assemble on a similar occasion, within the memory of the existing generation. Not only Whitehall, the Horse Guards, and the Treasury, were filled with company of both sexes, but also the Colonnade in the Park, and the houses of Carlton Terrace, were crowded with the families of distin-

guished rank and members of the English gentry. The Waterloo steps contained what appeared from below to be a close column of people upon an inclined plane. The fineness of the day gave all its power to increase the brilliancy of this animated and exhilarating scene.

In the mean time an equally busy scene was transacting within the precincts of the House of Lords. At an early hour all the avenues leading to the galleries were crowded with ladies, anxiously waiting the moment for admission, which was fixed for twelve o'clock. Punctually at that time, the judicial business of the house having terminated, the doors were opened for those having tickets for the strangers' gallery, which, with the exception of the reporters' bench, was exclusively appropriated to Peers' daughters and other ladies. This gallery remains uninterfered with, in all the changes which have occurred in its vicinity: it is still the same elegant, albeit elaborate, architectural structure, lighted, or rather illumined, from its lanthorn turret windows, whose amber light falling over a rich crimson carpeting, gives a strikingly rich and quiet grandeur to the whole place. Two lines of seats on each side of this gallery, and some little room for standers, were occupied fully before one o'clock; and their tenants had abundant gratification in observing the different distinguished men of the Peerage as they came in, the various Ambassadors and their suites, for they were all there, and

the Peeresses and other ladies, who were accommodated with seats in the House itself. The regalia was also brought in at this time, under the escort of the Battle-Axe Guard. Any observation, however, of the distinguished current which continued pouring along this passage, was rather awkwardly interrupted a little after one o'clock, by a detachment of the Blues arriving to line, at each side, the path of the royal *cortége*. These troops, although with their rich uniforms, bright cuirasses, and crimson plumes, they were highly ornamental, were any thing but useful to the crowd, chiefly of ladies, whom they hemmed in. The fair spectators were, however, not to be baffled; and by standing on their seats, they ultimately gained a sufficient elevation to enable a full indulgence of their curiosity. The gallery presented a very brilliant sight at this time; the Guards ranged closely together, four Trumpeters at their head, in state liveries, the Heralds at Arms ranged above these, waiting till called to marshal in the young Queen; and the Gentlemen Pensioners, in their war-like trim, cock-feather plumage, and quaint partizans, carrying on the line of pageantry, even to the unfolded doors.

In the body of the House most of the seats were ticketed with the names of the Peeresses who intended to be present, after the manner of the House of Commons, when a heavy debate is expected. The ladies were all attired in deep mourning, with plumes of black feathers, which contrasted with the

state robes of the Peers, and the brilliant costumes of the foreign Ambassadors and Ministers, gave to the house a peculiarly striking appearance. The Lord Chancellor, habited in his state robes, entered the house at a quarter to two. At this time, upwards of a hundred and twenty Peers had assembled ; and as the space allotted to the Ladies, and occupied by them, bore a very large proportion to the size of the whole house, it was not without difficulty that many of their Lordships procured seats.

At ten minutes before two o'clock her Majesty left the Palace. The procession consisted of five state carriages ; the first of these was drawn by six beautiful greys ; it conveyed Sir Frederick Smith and Mr. Blackwood, the Gentlemen Ushers in waiting ; Mr. Samuel Hancock, Exon of the Yeoman of the Guard ; and Master Ellice, Page of Honour. The second carriage, drawn by a set of bays, conveyed Master Cavendish, Page of Honour ; Sir Robert Otway, Groom in waiting ; Colonel Cavendish, Equerry in waiting ; and the Silver Stick in waiting. In the third carriage, also drawn by bays, were Lord Hill, Gold Stick in waiting ; the Captain of the Yeoman of the Guard ; the Comptroller of the Household, and Lord Kilmarnock, Page of Honour. The fourth carriage, drawn by six black Hanoverian horses, contained the Marchioness of Lansdowne, First Lady in waiting ; the Countess of Mulgrave ; the Lord Steward, and Lord Templemore, Lord in waiting. Next came

the Queen's Marshalmen, two-and-two; the Queen's Footmen, in state liveries, two-and-two; and a party of the Yeoman of the Guards. Then the state coach, drawn by eight cream-coloured horses, for whom a new state harness, of red morocco, richly ornamented with the royal coat of arms, was used for the first time. The Lord Chamberlain conducted her Majesty through the state apartments, which were lined by the Yeomen of the Guard. As the Queen entered the state carriage, a signal was given by the Sergeant Trumpeter to the Trumpeter on horseback, the band of the Foot Guards at the same moment playing "God save the Queen." Opposite her Majesty sat the Duchess of Sutherland, Mistress of the Robes; and the Master of the Horse. The Queen was splendidly attired; over a white satin petticoat, embroidered in gold, and trimmed with a broad gold border, she wore a kirtle of crimson velvet, trimmed with ermine and gold lace, and confined at the waist and shoulders with gold cord and tassels. A tissue of brilliants seemed reticulated round the upper part of her dress next her bosom, and were carried down to the waist in a priceless stomacher. A profusion of large and costly diamonds hung upon her neck; in her ears she wore large pendants of surprising brilliancy, on both arms strings of diamonds, and on her left the garter; the blue ribbon of this most noble order crossed her bosom, and its brilliant star glittered on her left breast. Her hair was arranged in bands

parted on the forehead, and surmounted with a circlet, or open crown, of diamonds, on which were crosses pattée, and sprigs of the rose, thistle, and shamrock, disposed alternately. This crown is said to be the same worn by Queen Anne on the occasion before alluded to.

The royal procession passed through the triumphal arch in front of the Palace; and the instant her Majesty appeared outside the gates, the most rapturous shouts of applause were heard on every side, the ladies waving their handkerchiefs, the gentlemen their hats. These acclamations once begun were carried on with increased fervour, as the procession moved down the middle mall in St. James's Park, escorted by the royal regiment of Horseguards. The Queen was seen looking all that the most loyal and the most devoted of her subjects could have wished. But it was not alone the Sovereign of Great Britain who at that moment centred the thoughts of thousands of her people. There passed before their eyes a fair, a young, and interesting creature, taking leave, by her first public act, of all the *agremens* of domestic life, to enter upon a career of cares and responsibilities, the burthen of which was sufficient to enlist all their sympathies, if they had not been actually engaged in behalf of the youthful Queen. Domestic happiness, indeed, her Majesty might hereafter enjoy; and fervently they prayed that long years of it might fall to her share: but how must it be

crossed and chequered by the duty that cannot fail to devolve upon her, of calming political storms, and crushing political intrigues. That some such thought weighed on the mind of the Queen was but too obvious. Though the cheers of her assembled people continually greeted her on her progress, there was a pensive and anxious sensibility visible in the half-moistened eye and compressed lip of the royal countenance ; it seemed as if the slightest expression of popular ill-feeling would have been replied to by tears. Happily no cause for such a *denouement* offered itself ; and the interesting Maiden kept bowing most courteously, though with the smile of agitated pleasure, to the reiterated exclamations of "God bless the Queen,"—"God save your Majesty ;" and so the huge coach, with the golden crown on the top of its great golden self, moved on heavily, amidst a sea of heads, shining in the distance, and putting hats off as it proceeded through the Horse-Guards, and along Parliament Street, to the House of Lords.

To return to the interior of the House :—At two o'clock the first gun was heard announcing her Majesty's departure from the Palace ; and this was a signal to the members of the Ministry belonging to the Lords, and the great Officers of State, assembled under the direction of Lord Willoughby-de-Eresby, Lord Great Chamberlain, to proceed towards the entrance of the Gallery. Immediately afterwards, her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, accom-

panied by the Princess of Leiningen, entered the House, when all the Peers and Peeresses present rose in compliment to her. Her Royal Highness and the Princess took their seats on the Woolsack, immediately in front of the throne, and with their faces turned towards it. The Duke of Sussex, who had taken a position on the left of the throne for the purpose of receiving the Queen, advanced towards her Royal Highness as soon as she had taken her seat on the Woolsack, and continued for some time in animated conversation with her. At this time the House was completely crowded in every part; and as the mingled sounds of joy-bells and shouting were heard from without, the latter progressively increasing in loudness, and coming in great successive peals, at length seemed to roll around the Parliament Houses, the interest within its narrow walls deepened into a perfect intensity—the loud hum of conversation ceased—each Peer assumed his proper place—every eye was bent with an anxious solicitude towards the passage at which her Majesty was to enter. A burst of “God save the Queen,” from the band below, and the simultaneous report of artillery, at length announced that her Majesty had arrived at the outer doors of the House. She was received, on alighting, by the great officers of State and the Ministers; on arriving at the end of the Royal Gallery, the *cortége*, instead of entering the House of Lords, turned to the left, and remained in the Lord’s waiting-room,

whilst her Majesty, attended by her ladies in waiting, passed to her robing-room on the right of the gallery. Here her Majesty exchanged her robe for one of much greater length, gorgeously lined with ermine, and also assumed the Collar of the Garter, after which she returned to the waiting-room, whence the procession, having fallen into the prescribed order, proceeded to the House of Lords. Meanwhile, the delay in the robing-room had been longer than anticipated, and amidst the deep and unbroken silence which now prevailed in the body of the House, marking in the most striking manner the interest which all took in the appearance of their youthful Sovereign, the Duchess of Kent might well be pardoned an anxious feeling; her Royal Highness, however, betrayed no symptoms of uneasiness beyond that of constantly and anxiously directing her eyes to the passage by which her illustrious daughter was to approach the throne.

Precisely at twenty minutes to three o'clock, a flourish of trumpets was again heard, and in a few seconds the Heralds, in their gorgeous tabbards, were seen winding slowly into the gallery; then came a numerous band of Aides-de-Camp and Equerries, followed by the Duke of Norfolk with his wand of office, as Earl Marshal; the Lord Great Chamberlain; the Marquis of Lansdowne; the Lord Chancellor, carrying the seals, and accompanied by his mace-bearer, usher, and pursuivant;

the Marquis of Winchester, bearing the cap of maintenance ; Viscount Melbourne, the sword of state ; and the Duke of Somerset, the crown imperial on a crimson velvet cushion. Her Majesty next advanced, attended by the Duchess of Sutherland, the Marchioness of Lansdowne, and the Countess of Mulgrave. Several Officers of the Household completed the *cortège*.

The moment her Majesty entered the gallery the four Trumpeters of the Guard broke forth in the simple but striking royal salute, and the troops presented arms. Every eye was fixed upon the young Queen, brought thus, for the first time, before the public, in perhaps the most imposing ceremonial appertaining to the royal functions. Many ladies were observed, sympathizing as they fancied with the highly-wrought feelings of her Majesty, to weep outright. But the youthful Queen had a stouter heart. One who at this moment watched her closely, and with the deepest interest, says, “ Her countenance was all simplicity, equanimity, kindliness, and good sense : she walked forward firmly and slowly, and though not tall, with a truly regal port, entirely unaffected. She smiled gently upon and bowed to those who silently saluted her ; and with a quick intelligence in her large pale blue eyes, and an expression of firmness derived from her upper lip being compressed so as almost to disappear behind the lower, moved gracefully along. Her features are quite those of

our Royal Family, and somehow or other strongly reminded us partly of the Princess Charlotte, and partly of King George the Third. Her Majesty was attired in the costume already described, which made an appearance at once most magnificent, most elegant, and most chaste; the train of her crimson velvet robe being supported by three boy Pages. The doors of the House of Lords closed as the *cortège* entered. Her Majesty ascended the Throne, with a firm and composed step, and for several moments continued standing, graciously regarding all around her. The Ladies in waiting and the Pages who bore her Majesty's train, took their place behind the throne. The Lord Chancellor, the Marquis of Lansdowne, Viscount Duncannon, and the Duke of Norfolk, stood on the steps of the Throne, to the right of her Majesty, and on the left stood, Viscount Melbourne, the Duke of Somerset, and the Duke of Sussex. At this moment the interest of the scene was at its height; and the spectacle of so young and beautiful a Sovereign; so surrounded, and deporting herself in a situation so new, with an easy dignity that could not be surpassed, was one not soon to be forgotten. On taking her seat, her Majesty's countenance became slightly flushed, but in a few moments the natural colour was restored; and once more looking round her, seeing that the Peers remained standing, she said, in a low tone of voice, but bending gracefully forward, and with an easy

gesture of the hand, "My Lords, be seated." The Peers and Peeresses having accordingly resumed their seats, Sir Augustus Clifford, the Usher of the Black Rod, kneeling at the foot of the steps of the Throne, received her Majesty's command to summon the Commons; and in a few minutes the Members of that House, headed by the Speaker, appeared below the bar. The turbulent mode of their entrance, and the almost boisterous struggle for precedence, which took place between some of them, appeared to afford her Majesty much amusement; she smiled and looked quickly round at the Lords, who stood near the Throne. After a short pause, the Speaker addressed her Majesty, in a speech which, according to custom, presented a brief analysis of the Session of Parliament her Majesty was about to close, and praying the Royal Assent to a variety of bills which had been regularly prepared by Parliament, and awaited only her Majesty's pleasure to become part and parcel of the law of the land. The most important amongst these was an Act mitigating the severity of the criminal law, and reducing the number of cases for capital punishment. The Queen gave her Royal Assent accordingly, with all the usual forms; and then, rising from her seat, and receiving from the Lord Chancellor a manuscript copy, proceeded to read the following most gracious speech, which is given here at length, because, though constitutionally speaking, the speech of the Queen is

the speech of the minister, and though, in ordinary cases, it is so in fact as well as in theory, yet it may be excusable to attribute something more of a personal character to the first Address of a Sovereign to her Parliament, than would be allowable in the common routine of Government proceedings ; indeed the whole production of this day, derived its chief value from the belief, irresistibly impressed by the manner and character of the Queen, that the gracious sentiments it expressed emanated from her heart, and would be remembered and acted upon throughout—it was fervently prayed—a long and prosperous reign. Nothing could exceed the accuracy of delivery ; every emphatic word was distinctly marked, and the paragraph relating to the amelioration of the criminal code especially, was spoken with an earnestness and energy deeply affecting. The euphonious tone of her voice too, although somewhat of a youthful character, greatly heightened the general effect. Persons in the most distant part of the House caught every syllable which she uttered, so clear and so distinct was her enunciation.

“ MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“ I have been anxious to seize the first opportunity of meeting you, in order that I might repeat, in person, my cordial thanks for your condolence on the death of his late Majesty, and for the expressions of attachment and affection, with which you congratulated me upon my accession to the Throne. I am desirous of renewing the assurance of my determination, to

maintain the Protestant Religion as established by law, to secure to all the free exercise of the rights of conscience, to protect the liberties, and to promote the welfare of all classes of the community.

“I rejoice that in ascending the Throne, I find the country in amity with all foreign Powers; and while I faithfully perform the engagements of my Crown, and carefully watch over the interests of my Subjects, it shall be the constant object of my solicitude to preserve the blessings of peace.

“GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

“I thank you for the liberal supplies which you have granted for the public service of the year, as well as for the provision which you have made to meet the payments usually chargeable upon the civil list.

“I will give directions, that the public expenditure, in all its branches, be administered with the strictest economy.

“MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“In taking leave of this Parliament, I return you my thanks, for the zeal and assiduity with which you have applied yourselves to the public business of the Country.

“Although your labours have been unexpectedly interrupted, by the melancholy event which has taken place, I trust that they will have the beneficial effect of advancing the progress of legislation in a new Parliament. I perceive, with satisfaction, that you have brought to maturity some useful measures, amongst which I regard, with peculiar interest, the amendment of the criminal code, and the reduction of the number of capital punishments. I hail this mitigation of the severity of the law as an auspicious commencement of my reign.

“I ascend the Throne under a deep sense of the responsibility which is imposed upon me; but I am supported by the consciousness of my own right intentions, and by my dependence upon the protection of ALMIGHTY GOD. It will be my care to

strengthen our institutions, civil and ecclesiastical, by discreet improvement, wherever improvement is required, and to do all in my power to compose and allay animosity and discord.

“Acting upon these principles, I shall, upon all occasions, look with confidence to the wisdom of Parliament and the affections of my people, which form the true support of the dignity of the Crown, and ensure the stability of the Constitution.”

Then the Lord Chancellor, by her Majesty's command, said—

“MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

“It is her Majesty's royal will and pleasure that this Parliament be prorogued to Thursday the 10th day of August next, to be then here holden; and this Parliament is accordingly prorogued to Thursday, the 10th day of August next.”

Her Majesty had no sooner concluded, than the general remark throughout the House was, “How admirably she delivered the speech.” The exclamations in the strangers' gallery were, “What a silver-toned voice!” “How gracefully she bears herself!” “With what dignity she moves!” In short, numerous, energetic, and cordial were the eulogiums pronounced on this, the first Address to both Houses of Parliament, of our youthful Queen.

Her Majesty then rose, and quitted the House, passing again down the Royal Gallery, attended in the same manner as on entering. It was just three as the whole ceremony concluded; the House of Lords immediately broke up, and the Peers, Am-

bassadors, and Peeresses all came forth in a crowd. There was but one theme of the conversation of all—the unaffected, simple, sensible, and dignified manner in which the young Queen moved, looked, and spoke, throughout the trying scene in which she had thus so conspicuously appeared. But, however calmly and firmly her Majesty had borne herself throughout the whole proceedings, the exertion both of mind and body which she had thus nobly sustained, were sufficiently proved by the fact, that on returning to the royal robing room, after leaving the House of Peers, she actually fainted, and it was some minutes before the application of proper restoratives was attended with the desired effect. On re-entering the state coach she looked considerably flushed, but the cause of excitement was over; her spirits were considerably improved; and there was an elasticity in her manner, that showed the removal of a heavy anxiety. The first exertion passed, the same nervous though amiable sensitiveness has not since oppressed her; and her subjects are happy in feeling that the care of their general interest, is no longer a source of the same uneasiness to their youthful Sovereign. Now smiling, self-possessed, and apparently highly pleased, she returned, amid the acclamations of thousands and tens of thousands, to the Palace. It was remarked amongst the assembled throng, that she bore a strong resemblance to her late Royal Father, with a mixture of something more

gladsome and open-mouthed, the upper lip shewing the teeth while speaking, but her Crown seemed to rest upon a forehead derived from her Mother and maternal Uncle Leopold.

Her Majesty, notwithstanding the fatigue she had undergone, was enabled to hold a Privy Council at four o'clock, which was attended by all the Ministers, and at which a proclamation was issued dissolving the Parliament and summoning a new one.

ANECDOTES.

On one occasion, shortly after her Majesty's accession, she commanded her Ladies to attend upon her at Buckingham Palace at a certain hour, in order to accompany her to the exhibition of the Royal Academy. Her Majesty was, as usual, ready at the appointed time ; but one Lady of the suite did not arrive until ten minutes afterwards. The Queen, taking out her watch, calmly remarked, " I have been waiting, my dear Lady —— ten minutes for your arrival : I trust such a circumstance will not occur again, as punctuality is of the utmost importance to *me*, and must be a ruling principle in my Palace." The Lady, somewhat confused by her unintentional negligence and its natural consequence, could not in the agitation of the moment arrange her shawl to her satisfaction, which her

Majesty observing, she kindly placed it upon her shoulder, saying, with one of her sweetest smiles, "We shall all understand our duties better by and bye."

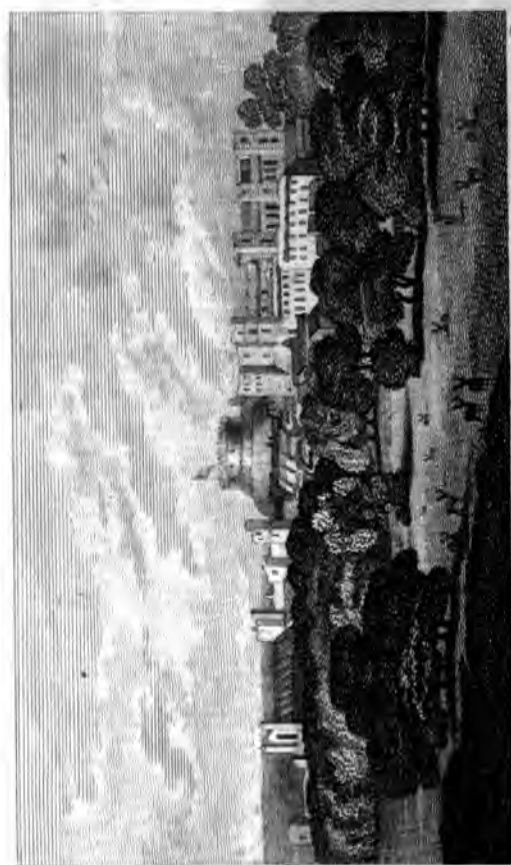
About the same period, some sentences of Court Martials were presented to her Majesty for her signature. One was of death for desertion. The young Sovereign read it,—paused,—looked up at the official person who laid it before her. "Have you *nothing* to say in behalf of this man?"—"Nothing, Madam, he has deserted three times." "Think again, my Lord," was her Majesty's reply,—a reply deserving gratitude and love from all posterity. "And," said the gallant veteran, as he related the circumstance to his friend, "I, seeing her Majesty so earnest about it, said, 'he is certainly a very bad *soldier*, but there was somebody spoke as to his character, and he may be a good *man*, for ought I know to the contrary.'" "Oh, thank you for that, a thousand times," exclaimed the Queen, and hastily writing, "pardoned," in large letters, on the fatal paper, she put it across the table, with a hand trembling with eagerness and beautiful emotion.

A grand review in Hyde Park had been in contemplation during the month of July, at which her Majesty had intended appearing on horseback, and every precaution had been adopted to ensure the

safety of the Royal person, by the proper training of the superb charger on which the beautiful young Queen was to have exhibited herself, in so new and interesting a character, to her loving subjects. Suddenly, however, it was discovered by the coterie surrounding the Throne, that the public appearance on horseback of a female Sovereign, on such an occasion, was altogether indecorous ; and the Prime Minister represented to the Queen that, in his opinion, it would not be becoming in her Majesty to appear at the Review, except in one of the Royal Carriages. "Very well,"—her Majesty is said to have replied, "Very well, my Lord, then be it so ; but remember—no horse, no review." It was in vain that Lord Melbourne remonstrated ; the Queen remained firm ; and although several attempts were made to alter her Majesty's determination, there was, during that summer at least, "no horse, and no review."

WINDSOR AND BRIGHTON.

On the 22nd of August, her Majesty made a triumphal progress from Buckingham House, through Kensington, Hammersmith, Turnham Green, Brentford, Hounslow, &c., to that ancient and magnificent Palace of her Fathers—Windsor Castle : and never, perhaps, did a British Monarch take up his or her abode in that regal residence under circumstances more auspicious, or amidst congratulations



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more heartfelt and universal. The whole line of road was one continued pageant, and the inhabitants of Windsor itself had never made such strenuous exertions, to give a warm and loyal welcome to the first arrival of a new Sovereign amongst them. From four to five thousand poor persons were dined, at seventy-two tables spread in the long walk for their accommodation ; the hour fixed for this joyous feast was five o'clock, at about which time her Majesty had announced her intention of reaching Windsor, and of alighting in the long walk for the purpose of more closely witnessing the happy scene : this gracious intention was, however, unfortunately frustrated by the weather, which clouded over towards the afternoon, and rained incessantly after four o'clock. At a quarter past five a movement amongst the distant crowd, the signal of a rocket, and then the firing of guns, announced the approach of the Royal *cortége*. At a slow pace two carriages and four, escorted by a detachment of the Life Guards, and followed by a seemingly endless procession of vehicles of every kind, proceeded up the long walk towards the Castle. In the first, were the Queen, the Duchess of Kent, Lady Flora Hastings, and Lady Catherine Jenkinson ; in the second, Baroness Lehzen, the Hon. Miss Cocks, the Hon. Miss Cavendish, and Col. Buckley. The Queen was dressed in white, with a black mantilla, and a Dunstable straw bonnet trimmed with a white satin ribbon. She appeared in excellent health

and cheerful spirits ; but beyond this there was in the countenance of her Majesty, as she mirthfully smiled upon the motley throng of high and low, rich and poor, by whom she was enthusiastically greeted, that indescribable expression which denotes goodness of heart and kindness of affection. Notwithstanding the continued rain the royal carriage was kept open, and a parasol only gave to the Queen of Great Britain the same degree of shelter that the humbler umbrella afforded to the thousands of her poorer subjects, whose innocent enjoyments she witnessed as she passed. A very striking portion of the scene took place at the moment her Majesty set her foot within the threshold of the Palace:—the immense concourse of persons who had assembled in the Great Park, fixed their eager gaze upon the keep of the stately edifice ; and the hoisting of the Royal banner, the signal that its proud towers sheltered the Monarch's head, was received with one universal shout, so loud, so long, so fervent, as to astound those who were unprepared for it, and to carry irrefragable evidence to the mind of the Queen, of the heartiness of that loyalty by which she was surrounded.

Her Majesty resided during the next six weeks at Windsor, in the enjoyment of all the recreation afforded by the beauties of the adjacent country, and of the company of her illustrious Uncle King Leopold, who, with his amiable Consort, paid her a short visit at this period. Her Majesty took great

delight in her daily rides on horseback through the lovely scenery of the Great Park, and through the crowded ranks of people who constantly assembled at the entrance of the long walk, to catch a glimpse of their youthful and interesting Sovereign. The appearance of the Royal Cavalcade, amounting generally to more than twenty in number, was, on these occasions, eminently picturesque; and much admiration was always excited by the easy gracefulness with which her Majesty governed her horse, and at the same time acknowledged the salutations of the loyal lieges who lined her path, and who rejoiced to see the effect of pure air and healthful exercise upon the delicate constitution of the Queen, which became gradually renovated—her cheek resuming the bloom, and her eye the sparkling lustre, which the fatigue and excitement she had latterly been exposed to had partially impaired.

The Queen is very punctual in the observance of her religious duties, and she does not fail to mark her sense of any neglect of them on the part of others. An interesting circumstance, illustrative of this, occurred during her Majesty's first residence at Windsor:—

A noble Lord arrived at Windsor late one Saturday evening. "I have brought down for your Majesty's inspection," he said, "some papers of importance; but, as they must be gone into at length, I will not trouble your Majesty with them

to-night, but request your attention to them to-morrow morning."

"To-morrow morning?" repeated the Queen ;
"to-morrow is Sunday, my Lord!"

"But business of State, please your Majesty—"

"Must be attended to, I know," replied the Queen ; "and as, of course, you could not come down earlier to-night, I will, if those papers are of such vital importance, attend to them *after we come from Church to-morrow morning.*"

To Church went the Royal Party ; to Church went the Noble Lord ; and, much to his surprise, the sermon was on "*the duties of the sabbath!*"

"How did your Lordship like the sermon?" inquired the young Queen. "Very much, your Majesty," replied the Nobleman, with the best grace he could. "I will not conceal from you," said the Queen, "that last night I sent the Clergyman the text from which he preached. I hope we shall all be the better for it."

The day passed without a single word on the subject of "the papers of importance;" and at night, when her Majesty was about to withdraw, "To-morrow morning, my Lord," she said, at any hour you please, as early as seven if you like, we will go into these papers." His Lordship could not think of intruding at so early an hour on her Majesty—"nine would be quite time enough." "As they are of importance," said the Queen, "as they are of importance, my Lord, I would have

attended to them earlier, but at nine be it." And at nine her Majesty was seated, ready to receive the Nobleman, who had been taught a lesson on the duties of the Sabbath, it is to be hoped he will not quickly forget.

Early in October, her Majesty proceeded to Brighton ; and was received, both in that town and in her progress thither, with a warmth of welcome equaling, if not exceeding, that which had been accorded to her at Windsor. During the month which her Majesty passed at her marine Palace, in the daily enjoyment of the sea breezes, the enthusiasm of the populace scarcely abated : every day thousands surrounded the entrance to the Pavilion ; and when the Queen, either on horseback or in her beautiful little phaeton, drawn by four milk white ponies, with postillions and outriders in scarlet liveries, issued from the gates, she was met and followed by countless multitudes, who loudly expressed their delight at the opportunity afforded them of becoming acquainted with the person of their interesting Sovereign. Her Majesty would willingly have purchased a quiet ride, and uninterrupted contemplation of the wide expanse of ocean here opened to her view, even at the expense of a small portion of that popularity which, however gratifying, is in some of its accompaniments troublesome and annoying ; but she bore the curiosity of the populace with philosophical good humour, and was frequently exceedingly entertained at the ma-

mœuvres resorted to, in order to obtain a nearer or more lengthened observation of her countenance. In the midst of her amusements and occasional bursts of girlish gaiety, however, it was evident, even to a casual observer, that the weight of government had not fallen lightly on the shoulders of the maiden Monarch : this is indeed so generally and uniformly conspicuous in her Majesty's deportment, that it does not require admittance to the council chamber to convince us of the fact : even in her daily intercourse with her people, not traces only of deep and pregnant thought are visible in her countenance, but an abstraction of mind, which tells more eloquently than words can do, the passing thought within. If on one occasion more than another this was particularly noticeable, it was on that memorable day when her Majesty paid her first visit to the chain-pier at Brighton : the Royal *cortège* issued from the Palace precisely at twelve o'clock, up to which time, from an early hour in the morning, her Majesty had been exclusively engaged in affairs of State. On this occasion, the Minister did not accompany his Royal Mistress ; and it was remarked by more than one of the anxious multitude, that the Duchess of Kent, and particularly the Baroness Lehzen, who, together with the Countess of Mulgrave, occupied seats in the royal carriage, exerted themselves to recover her Majesty from that apparent listlessness into which it is probable the pressure of uncongenial business had precipi-

tated the object of their care, and over which it was evident the animation of the surrounding scene had no power. The carriage stopped for a minute at the upper entrance, and the usual ebullition of popular greeting was suppressed by the irresistible feeling of sympathy, which her Majesty's look could not fail to induce. Instead of the buoyant expectancy of the years her Majesty had just numbered, the sunny smiles which should at that interesting age bespeak a heart, light and untroubled as the air we breathe—there sat upon the royal brow the genius of care. Pale, womanly in appearance far beyond her age, she received and acknowledged the silent but respectful tokens of her people's love, with that sort of expression which convinced them how much she felt and owned the destiny which made her theirs! There was intellect, indeed, but it was indicative of a mind consecrated to no ordinary embellishments; and there was a consciousness of innate power and discipline so fully developed, that our fealty did not require the ceremony of a proclamation. Neither the specimen of art she was about to honour with her presence, nor the roar of cannon, had power to disturb one feature in the royal countenance, and shortly after alighting from her carriage and pacing the pier, her Majesty was fain to retrace her way to the Pavilion.

ROYAL VISIT TO THE CITY.

Her Majesty, having graciously accepted the invitation of the Lord Mayor, and her loyal Citizens of London, to honour them with her company to dinner ; and having appointed Thursday, the 9th of November, for that purpose, arrived in Town from Brighton in the course of the preceding week, and on that day proceeded in state from Buckingham Palace, through the principal streets of the City to the Guildhall, accompanied by the Members of her family, and attended by the full court. The metropolis presented, during the whole day, a most imposing and magnificent spectacle : more than a million of persons, of all ranks, sexes, and ages, joined in one common holiday ; and it was a noble and exhilarating sight to witness the warm affection and fervent loyalty with which this mass of human beings welcomed their young and interesting Sovereign amongst them. Precisely at two o'clock her Majesty entered the state carriage ; and at a little before four alighted at the Guildhall, within the walls of which she was entertained with a magnificence worthy of the wealth and hospitality of the first city in the world ; and gratified her subjects much, by choosing from amongst the luxuries provided for the banquet, the true English fare of roast beef and plum-pudding. She appeared in excellent health and high spirits ; and, by her whole demeanour, pleased and delighted everybody. At about

nine o'clock her Majesty left the Guildhall, and proceeded at a slow rate through the illuminated streets on her return homewards, the shouts of the assembled multitudes marking her progress throughout the whole route. The carriage windows were down, and so brilliant was the blaze of light, that her Majesty was much more distinctly seen, on her return from the Guildhall, than in the afternoon through the plate glass windows of the state carriage. Her Majesty wore in the carriage a beautiful ermine tippet, and under it a pink silk dress embroidered in silver, with a brilliant tiara of diamonds on her head.

Almost immediately afterwards, her Majesty paid state visits to the two great Theatres of Drury Lane and Covent Garden, and upon these occasions met with perhaps the most vociferously loyal welcome that had hitherto awaited her. At Drury Lane, especially, John Bull appeared in all his glory—whilst his gentle young Sovereign received his hearty greeting with pleased yet timid agitation. When her Majesty, however, had in some degree recovered from the effects of the first burst of affectionate congratulation, which seemed almost to overwhelm her, she appeared highly amused and gratified by the scene presented to her notice, and unweariedly continued, during the whole of both evenings, to respond, in the most gracious manner, to the reiterated loyal effusions of her people.

THE PREMIER AND EXPEDIENCY.

Her Majesty, though young and inexperienced, makes up for these defects, which every day must tend to diminish, by natural acuteness and an anxious desire to perform the great functions of the state for the benefit of the people. The Prime Minister, who is kept closely to his official duties, is said occasionally to declare that he would rather have ten Kings to manage than one Queen ; for that he cannot place a single document in her Majesty's hand for signature, but she first asks an infinite variety of questions respecting it ; and not unfrequently ends her interrogatories by declining to put her name to the paper in question—at least until she has taken time to consider of its merits.

His Lordship, on one occasion, having submitted some act of government for her Majesty's approval, was proceeding to urge the expediency of the measure, when he was stopped short by the Queen, who observed, with firmness, “ I have been taught, my Lord, to judge between what is right and what is wrong ; but expediency is a word I neither wish to hear nor to understand.”

ECONOMY OF TIME.

The Queen is an early riser, and is generally occupied for a couple of hours before breakfast in

looking over state papers, or in other affairs relating to the government of the country, having fortified her mind by prayer, and by the attentive and devout perusal of a portion of Scripture, which she invariably reads every morning in the privacy of her dressing-room. At ten, the breakfast hour, one of the attendants is desired to request the company of her dear mamma, who, be it observed, makes it a rule never to enter the royal presence without an especial summons. Then comes, perhaps, the most agreeable portion of the day—the social breakfast—almost the only opportunity her Majesty now enjoys of unrestrained intercourse with her beloved parent. The conversation always turns upon some topic interesting alike to mother and child,—on politics—never. Sometimes the Queen is benefitted by the Duchess's judicious remarks on the literary productions of the day, for her Royal Highness reads much, and with great discrimination. At about twelve o'clock, the ministers are admitted to audience ; and her Majesty is now, for many hours, involved in a vortex of state business, sufficient of itself to turn so young a brain, were it not that she happily possesses a firmness of temperament and clearness of intellect by which she is enabled to smooth many difficulties that might otherwise overwhelm her. In the afternoon she takes an airing, either in an open carriage or on horseback, whenever the weather is favourable, and her indispensable engagements will in any way

permit ; but it is the subject of general remark how very little time is allotted by the Queen for those light and graceful occupations so suited to her years, and so agreeable to her tastes. Yet her Majesty is observed to make use of every minute of the day, and to turn the briefest period of leisure to good account. Hers is not a mind to be for an instant idle. The moment a series of state duties have been despatched, the book, or the drawing, is resorted to ; or perhaps there is only time—that is to say, a very few minutes, which are always sufficient, to prepare for a ride or a walk, as a few more invariably suffice for the demands of the toilette, on the return to dinner ; and, even during the short time that her hair is dressing, she employs one of her ladies in reading to her, whilst she takes advantage of the opportunity to shut her eyes, thus giving them a little respite from their continual fatigue. In the evening her Majesty's recreation is complete. It is generally spent, whether at the theatres or at home, in the society of her mother, and the enjoyment of music ; of which, particularly vocal music, she is enthusiastically fond, and in which she possesses, to a remarkable degree, the hereditary talent of her family. Her voice is a pure soprano, of considerable sweetness and extent ; but with a maidenly modesty, highly commendable, her Majesty never sings when any gentlemen, other than those of the immediate household, are present.



FIGURE 1. Coronation of Elizabeth I.

THE CORONATION.

The gorgeous and imposing ceremonial, on which the eyes of the whole nation had been fixed in eager anticipation for many weeks, was at length enacted on the 28th of June, 1838 ; and never perhaps has England known a blither Jubilee, than that which witnessed the voluntary and solemn ratification of the compact which had been, for the past year, understood and acted upon between the Sovereign and her people. The sun broke forcibly through the heavy clouds, with which the atmosphere had been for some days portentously laden, to hail the glad occasion ; and as the bright procession passed in all the pomp of state appertaining to the “ fair vestal throned by the west,” all that dazzled the eyes and took the senses captive in the splendour of the pageant, was as nothing in degree to the moral interest with which the spectacle was clothed ; for who could behold, unmoved, the young and lovely Representative of a long line of Kings, whom Providence had called, at so early an age, to wield the sceptre of earth’s mightiest empire, visibly affected by the mingled emotions which such a scene was calculated to inspire, and touched even to tears, while receiving the enthusiastic homage of her people ? The great metropolis of England, crowded beyond any former precedent, poured forth her millions, not only to mingle in the various

amusements provided by Royal favour for their gratification, but to join heart and voice in the common assent to allegiance, which we, as the subjects of our fair young Sovereign, may be said to have on that day more especially vowed ; whilst her Majesty's oath to administer her government according to law and justice, executed in mercy, was solemnly registered before God and her assembled people. Throughout the whole line of route, ample accomodations had been provided for all who chose to view the procession from an eminence ; and erections of the most elegant and fanciful description occupied every inch of ground which could be lawfully appropriated, whilst the independence of British spirit thronged the foot-paths with a dense mass of human beings, amongst whom the weaker sex bore their full share ; indeed so quiet, so orderly, so good-humoured were the crowd, so full of those finer emotions which tend to soften and humanize the heart, that the most delicate female might have moved amongst them without fear.

ST. JAMES'S PARK.

The ceremonies of the day commenced by the firing of a Royal salute, at sunrise, by a brigade of artillery stationed in the inner enclosure of St. James's Park, to the west of the ornamental water. This was instantly responded to by the ringing of

the bells in the neighbouring churches of Westminster, and a few minutes afterwards the royal standard was hoisted at the Admiralty and Horse Guards. Even at this early hour the Park was astir, with a large multitude of well-dressed persons, every one more anxious than another to secure a good position for viewing the starting of the procession, and all of them speculating on the probable chances of the weather. At this time the morning was exceedingly hazy, and fears were entertained that the brilliant display about to take place would be sadly tarnished by the unkindly influence of the elements. At five o'clock the rain began to fall slightly, but was not of long continuance. The crowd of spectators continued to increase, and hundreds took up their stations behind the railings which separate the mall in St. James's Park from the Green Park, and waited patiently for five hours to catch a glimpse of their youthful sovereign. A stand had been erected at the southwestern corner of the enclosure, which was speedily occupied by persons, some of whom, it was said, had paid large sums for the privilege of standing on a trifling elevation of a few feet. Vast numbers stopped to admire the encampment of the Royal Artillery already referred to. The scene was exceedingly striking. The tents of the soldiers were seventeen in number, although of small dimensions, and their snowy appearance contrasted well with the dark green of the grass upon which they were

pitched, and of the trees which literally overhung them ; while the effect was not a little heightened by the constant passing and re-passing of numerous small bodies of the soldiery.

About six o'clock there was another shower, somewhat more severe than the former, and of longer duration. Nevertheless, the influx of spectators, far from diminishing, increased incalculably every moment. We do not believe that a single individual left the Park from any dread of the weather ; and it now became sufficiently evident that, however severe or uninterrupted the rain might be, it would not suffice to damp the enthusiasm of the multitude.

At a quarter-past six, the 20th Regiment of foot marched from the Horse Guards up the centre mall, and stationed themselves in front of the triumphal arch, the band playing "God save the Queen." They were followed by several thousand individuals, attracted by the military music ; and the large open space in front of the Palace speedily became densely crowded, no means being yet taken for keeping it clear. Two Sailors were seen pacing backwards and forwards on the top of the arch ready to hoist the Royal Standard immediately on the passing of the state carriage. Only a small portion of this splendid standard, which was made of the finest silk expressly for this occasion, and is of the dimensions of thirty feet by eighteen, could yet be seen. The flagstaff upon which it was subsequently raised was stated to be eighty feet in

height, and was painted blue. Shortly after seven o'clock the rest of the troops appointed to assist in the ceremony marched through the Park, to take up their position on different portions of the line ; the space in front of the Palace was then cleared, and every thing put in readiness for the formation of the procession. The crowd still continued to increase, the weather, which up to this time had looked exceedingly threatening, began to clear up, and the multitude joyfully congratulated each other on the prospect of a fine day.

THE ABBEY.

Long before the dawn, Parliament Street was thronged by foot passengers anxious to secure a good view of the procession, and at about seven o'clock it was completely crowded. But these were not its only visitants, for from four o'clock A.M. a continuous line of carriages poured through it, bound for the great scene of attraction—the Abbey, the doors of which were thrown open at five o'clock, and at an early hour the seats appropriated to the public were taken possession of by provident persons, who were in waiting at the several entrances. The public galleries were filled before seven o'clock, and soon after that hour the privileged persons, for whom separate tribunes were allotted, began to make their appearance. The officers of

the gold stick were very active in their duty, and the various applicants were conducted to their respective posts with tolerable order. And here doubtless some description of the fitting up and interior decorations of the Abbey will be acceptable to the reader. On entering at the west door, the spectator observed all, or nearly all, the monuments in the side aisles encased in boards to preserve them from mutilation or injury. From the west door to the screen, over which the organ-loft is placed, and which divides the choir from the nave, there were two rows of galleries erected on each side of the centre aisle, one level with the vaultings, and the other with the summit of the western door. These galleries, of which the backs rested against the walls of the Abbey, had their fronts fluted with crimson cloth, richly draped at the top, and adorned with broad gold fringe at the bottom. They had a very pleasing appearance to the eye, but were of little value, except so far as they enabled one to see the procession pass by into the choir. The seats in them were calculated to hold about 1,500 persons. On the floor of the main aisle a platform was erected, about twelve feet broad, along which the procession was to walk. It was matted over, and covered with crimson cloth. On a step lower than the platform itself stood the military, who had to flank the procession as it marched into the choir. The screen, under which is the entrance to the choir, was entirely hidden

under a construction of wood, which enclosed the organ and the organ loft. This construction was of a Gothic character, with corresponding decorations.

On entering the choir from the pathway under the screen, the spectacle was both brilliant and beautiful. Looking up to the east end of the Abbey, you observed, immediately under its central tower, a square, formed by the intersection of the choir and transept, extending nearly the whole breadth of the choir. On this square a platform was erected, to which you ascended by five steps. The summit of this platform, and also the highest step leading to it, was covered with the richest cloth of gold. From that step down to the flooring of the theatre all was covered with the most sumptuous Wilton carpets.

In the very centre of this theatre the chair was placed in which her Majesty reposed when receiving the homage of her peers. Crossing the theatre, the eye arrived at the sacrarium, which forms a portion of the altar where the coronation chairs were placed. On the right, looking to the altar, which was surmounted by a lofty canopy, supporting various emblematical figures in gold, was the box for the members of the Royal family, of which the front was hung and the sides were lined within with crimson damask, while the top was decorated with a gilt Gothic cornice. On the left, a bench was reserved for the bishops, and above that bench a box for the foreign Ambassadors to our Court. The altar itself was surrounded by a beautiful Gothic

gilt frame, and the back of it was covered with purple and gold silks. The communion table and the cushions on which the offerings were to be laid were covered with Genoa velvet, bordered with lace, and fringed with gold, while the floor of the sacra-rium was covered with a rich purple and gold car-pet. Above the altar three galleries were formed, of which two were reserved for the members of the House of Commons, and a third, close to the roof, and not holding more than a dozen persons, was kept for the trumpets of the orchestra. These three galleries were fringed and decorated like those we have described as existing in the aisle before you reached the screen. Directly opposite to the gal-leries reserved for the House of Commons was placed the gallery for the orchestra. The Westminster boys were removed from the situation which before they generally occupied in the organ-loft, and were placed in a gallery on the south side of it.

In the choir itself all the ordinary stalls, reading-desks, and pews were removed to make way for the works necessary to the coronation. In their place were erected on each side of the choir five rows of benches, covered with scarlet drapery and gold. These rows were reserved as seats for the great officers of the State and Household. Above them were three rows of galleries, ornamented in a simi-lar manner. The highest row was in the vaultings, from which the seats were advanced several feet forward. In the two transepts two spacious gal-

leries were erected, reaching up to the catherine-wheel window in them both. Under, or rather in front of the gallery, in the north transept, the peeresses were ranged upon benches rising gradually above each other, whilst on the other side the peers similarly ranged themselves. Behind the benches of both peers and peeresses, seats were reserved for those on whom they thought proper to bestow their tickets. At the north-eastern end of the theatre a pulpit was erected, from which the coronation sermon was preached: it was ornamented most splendidly with crimson and gold.

It was nearly eight o'clock before any of the peers or peeresses made their appearance in the Abbey. They entered by the western gate, moved up the choir by the same route in which the Queen was subsequently to pass, and were afterwards conducted by gentlemen of the gold stick to their respective places. The arrival of each noble lady was an object of great interest to the galleries, as her splendid robes and display of jewels was of a different character to the other costumes. Each peeress was attended by a page, who bore the coronet of her rank, her train being also supported by pages. The peers were dressed in their robes of state, their coronets being borne for them in the same form as their consorts.

At nine o'clock all the persons who were to take part in the ceremony, not included in the procession, as well as those who had tickets of admission,

were assembled in the Abbey: every tribune and gallery was densely filled, and it would be difficult for those who have never witnessed such a ceremony to picture to themselves even a slight idea of the varied and magnificent scene which the interior of this venerable fabric now presented.

THE PROCESSION

began to form in St. James's Park at nine o'clock. A large space in front of the Palace was left open, in which was stationed her Majesty's band; on the right were the Yeomen of the Guard, and on the left a squadron of Life Guards and some Infantry. The carriages forming the procession entered the Park through the Horse Guards, and proceeded along the centre mall, where they formed a line, each carriage being placed eight feet behind that which preceded it.

At ten minutes past ten THE QUEEN, leaning on the arm of the Marquis Conyngham, left the state rooms, preceded by several officers of her household, and followed by the Duchess of Sutherland, Mistress of the robes; her Majesty's train being supported by the Pages of honour in waiting. The Yeomen of the Guard, who lined the marble hall, appeared in their new uniforms. Her Majesty was handed into the state coach by the Hon. Colonel Cavendish; when, by a signal given, the Royal

Standard was immediately hoisted on the marble arch, and, together with a royal salute, announced the gratifying intelligence to the expectant multitudes along the whole line of march.

The Procession then advanced at a slow pace up Constitution Hill, in the following order :

Trumpeters.

A Squadron of the Life Guards.

Carriages of the Foreign Resident Ambassadors and Ministers,
in the order in which they take precedence in this country.

The Chargé d'Affaires of Mexico.

The Chargé d'Affaires of Portugal.

The Chargé d'Affaires of Sweden.

The Saxon Minister.

The Hanoverian Minister.

The Greek Minister.

The Sardinian Minister.

The Spanish Minister.

The Minister from the United States.

The Minister from the Netherlands.

The Brazilian Minister.

The Bavarian Minister.

The Danish Minister.

The Belgian Minister.

The Wurtemberg Minister.

The Prussian Minister.

There was nothing particularly worthy of notice in the majority of these equipages ; they were by no means so splendid as might have been expected ; and the spectators appeared to feel considerable

disappointment. The carriages of the Sardinian and Prussian Ministers attracted most notice. They passed in tolerably quick succession; in a somewhat slower and more stately style followed the Carriages of the Foreign Ambassadors and Ministers Extraordinary, in the order in which they respectively reported their arrival in this country:—

Ahmed Pacha,
Ambassador Extraordinary from the Sultan.

Marshal Soult,
Ambassador Extraordinary from the King of the French.

The Duke of Palmella,
Ambassador Extraordinary from the Queen of Portugal.

The Count Lowenholm,
Ambassador Extraordinary from the King of Sweden.

The Marquis de Brignole,
Ambassador Extraordinary from the King of Sardinia.

Count Alten,
Ambassador Extraordinary from the King of Hanover.

The Prince de Putbus,
Ambassador Extraordinary from the King of Prussia. .

The Marquis de Miraflores,
Ambassador Extraordinary from the Queen of Spain.

Baron de Capallen,
Ambassador Extraordinary from the King of the Netherlands.

The Prince Schwarzenberg,
Ambassador Extraordinary from the Emperor of Austria.

Count Stroganoff,
Ambassador Extraordinary from the Emperor of Russia.

The Prince de Ligne,
Ambassador Extraordinary from the King of the Belgians.

Count Ludoff,
Ambassador Extraordinary from the King of the Two-Sicilies.

The Turkish Ambassador.
The French Ambassador. }
The Russian Ambassador.
The Austrian Ambassador.

If the equipages of the resident Ministers did not come up to the general expectation, those of the Ambassadors Extraordinary, sent purposely to grace the occasion, and present the congratulations of their respective Sovereigns, far surpassed it: indeed, the very splendid and tasteful display made by these high personages, who exhibited one, two, or three carriages each, many of them drawn by six horses, beautifully caparisoned, formed a highly attractive part of the procession. Ahmed Fethij Pacha, Ambassador Extraordinary from the Sultan, was not present; his Excellency was unfortunately detained by serious indisposition on his road to England, and did not reach our shores until long after the period of the Coronation. His absence was the source of considerable disappointment, as the multitude had naturally looked for an unusual display of magnificence in the equipage of this representative of the great Eastern Potentate. A Carriage conveying those Members of the Embassy who had reached London, however, occupied the place appointed in the procession; and although it did not equal the expectations formed of it, was

undoubtedly very handsome. The equipages of the Prussian, Belgian, Netherlands, and Hanoverian Ambassadors, were particularly distinguished for their richness and elegance. Amongst them all, however, that of Marshal Soult was pre-eminently admired: it was at once rich, chaste, and beautiful; magnificent, but not in the slightest degree gorgeous. The gallant Marshal was loudly cheered through the whole route, which compliment he acknowledged with a good-humoured frankness that gave great pleasure.

Mounted Band of a Regiment of Household Brigade.

Detachment of Life Guards.

Carriages of the Branches of the Royal Family,
with their respective Escorts.

The DUCHESS OF KENT and Attendants,
in her Royal Highness's two Carriages, each drawn by six horses,
with their proper Escort of Life Guards.

The Duchess of Gloucester and Attendants,
in her Royal Highness's two Carriages, each drawn by six horses,
with her proper Escort of Life Guards.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and Attendants,
in his Royal Highness's two Carriages, each drawn by six horses,
with his proper Escort of Life Guards.

The Duke of Sussex and Attendants,
in his Royal Highness's Carriage, drawn by six horses, with his
proper Escort of Life Guards.

The whole of these illustrious individuals were received with expressions of affectionate loyalty; but upon the Duchess of Kent was poured forth a

warmth of welcome which eloquently spoke the country's gratitude for the beautiful offering with which she had presented it—an offering about to be solemnly dedicated to the public service in its youthful and spotless purity.

Mounted Band of a Regiment of the Household Brigade.

The Queen's Bargemaster.

The Queen's Forty-eight Watermen.

HER MAJESTY'S CARRIAGES,

each drawn by six horses.

Two Grooms { THE FIRST CARRIAGE, } Two Grooms
walking. { drawn by six bays, } walking.

Conveying two Pages of Honour—James Charles Cowell, Esq., George F. C. Cavendish, Esq.; and two Gentlemen Ushers—Major Beresford, Captain Green.

Two Grooms { SECOND CARRIAGE, } Two Grooms
walking. { drawn by six bays, } walking.

Conveying two Pages of Honour—Charles Ellice, Esq., Lord Kilmarnock; and two Gentlemen Ushers—The Hon. F. Byng, C. Heneage, Esq.

Two Grooms { THIRD CARRIAGE, } Two Grooms
walking. { drawn by six bays, } walking.

Conveying two Bedchamber Women—Lady Theresa Digby, Lady Charlotte Copley; and two Grooms in Waiting—Hon. George Keppel, Henry Rich, Esq.

Two Grooms { FOURTH CARRIAGE, } Two Grooms
walking. { drawn by six bays, } walking.

Conveying two Bedchamber Women—Lady Harriet Clive, Lady Caroline Barrington; and two Grooms in Waiting—Hon. William Cooper, Sir Frederick Stovin.

Two Grooms { FIFTH CARRIAGE, } Two Grooms
walking. { drawn by six bays, } walking.

Conveying two Maids of Honour—Hon. Miss Rice, Hon. Miss Murray; Groom of the Robes, Captain Francis Seymour; and Clerk Marshal, Hon. Colonel Cavendish.

Two Grooms { SIXTH CARRIAGE, } Two Grooms
walking. { drawn by six bays, } walking.

Conveying two Maids of Honour—Hon. Miss Lister, Hon. Miss Paget; Keeper of the Privy Purse, Sir Henry Wheatley; and Vice-Chamberlain, Earl of Belfast.

Two Grooms { SEVENTH CARRIAGE, } Two Grooms
walking. { drawn by six bays, } walking.

Conveying two Maids of Honour—Honourable Miss Cavendish, Honourable Miss Cocks; Treasurer of the Household, Earl of Surry; and Comptroller of the Household, Hon. George Byng.

Two Grooms { EIGHT CARRIAGE, } Two Grooms
walking. { drawn by six bays, } walking.

Conveying two Maids of Honour—Hon. Miss Dillon, Hon. Miss Pitt; and two Lords in Waiting—Lord Gardner, Lord Lilford.

Two Grooms { NINTH CARRIAGE, } Two Grooms
walking. { drawn by six greys, } walking.

Conveying two Ladies of the Bedchamber—Lady Pertman, Lady Barham; and two Lords in Waiting—Lord Byron, Viscount Falkland.

Two Grooms { TENTH CARRIAGE, } Two Grooms
walking. { drawn by six bays, } walking.

Conveying two Ladies of the Bedchamber—Lady Lyttleton, Countess of Mulgrave; and two Lords in Waiting—Viscount Torrington, Earl of Uxbridge.

Two Grooms { ELEVENTH CARRIAGE, } Two Grooms
walking. { drawn by six bays, } walking.

Conveying two Ladies of the Bedchamber—the Countess of Charlemont, Marchioness of Tavistock; and two Lords in Waiting—the Earl of Fingal, Marquis of Headfort.

Three Grooms { TWELFTH CARRIAGE. } Three Grooms
walking. { drawn by six blacks, } walking.

Conveying the Principal Lady of the Bedchamber, the Marchioness of Lansdowne; the Lord Chamberlain, Marquis Conyngham; and the Lord Steward, Duke of Argyle.

The Peers and Peeresses in the Queen's carriages wore their robes and carried their Coronets; the other Ladies of the Household were in full court dress, and the Officers of the Household in their respective uniforms.

A squadron of Life Guards.

Mounted Band of the Household Brigade.

Military Staff and Aids-de-Camp on horseback, three and three.

Sir R. Gardiner, Colonel Fremantle, Lord G. Russell.

Col. Wynyard, Col. Fergusson, Col. Brotherton.

Sir A. J. Dalrymple, Sir J. H. Reynett, Colonel Smelt.

Col. Arnold, Col. Wemyss, Col. Wood.

First and Principal Aid-de-Camp to the Queen, Lieut. General

Sir Herbert Taylor, G.C.B.

ATTENDED BY THE

Equerry of the Crown Stables, Sir George Quentin.

The Queen's Gentleman Rider, J. Fozard, Esq.

Deputy-Adjutant-General, Major-General John Gardiner.

Deputy-Quarter-Master-General, Col. Freeth, K. H.

Deputy-Adjutant-General Royal Artillery, Sir Alex. Dickson.
 Quarter-Master-Gen., Sir J. Willoughby Gordon, Bart.
 Military Secretary to the Commander-in-Chief, Lord Fitzroy
 Somerset, K.C.B.

Adjutant-General Sir J. Macdonald, K.C.B.
 The Royal Huntsmen, Yeomen Prickers, and Foresters.
 Six of her Majesty's Horses, with rich trappings, each Horse led
 by two Grooms.

These noble animals, together with their costly
 paraphernalia, attracted a large share of the popular
 applause.

The Knight Marshal, Sir J. C. Lamb, Bart.
 Marshalmen, in ranks of four.
 The first Exon of the Yeomen of the Guard on horseback,
 Sir Thomas Curteis, Bart.
 The second Exon, Samuel Hancock, Esq.
 The third Exon, Captain William Bellairs.
 The fourth Exon, J. Nuttall, Esq.
 One hundred Yeomen of the Guard, four and four.

The Marshalmen and Yeomen, in their fantastic
 costumes, and carrying their antique halberts,
 formed a very picturesque portion of the varied
 scene.

The Clerk of the Cheque, James Bunce Curling, Esq.
 Harbinger, Samuel Wilson, Esq.
 Ensign, Sir Thomas N. Reeve.
 Lieutenant, Sir Samuel Spry, M.P.

THE STATE COACH,

drawn by eight cream-coloured horses,
 attended by a Yeoman of the Guard at each wheel, and
 two Footmen at each door.

The Gold Stick, Viscount Combermere, and the Captain of
the Yeoman of the Guard, the Earl Ilchester,
riding on either side, attended by Two Grooms each,

CONVEYING

THE QUEEN,

The Mistress of the Robes, the Duchess of Sutherland.
The Master of the Horse, the Earl of Albemarle.

The Captain-General of the Royal Archers, the Duke of
Buccleuch,
Attended by two Grooms.
A squadron of Life Guards.

The state carriage, in its ponderous splendour, was an object of much interest, independently of the precious burthen which it bore. It had been newly embellished and re-gilt in a costly style for the occasion; and when drawn by eight of the most superb horses the world can produce, is truly a magnificent equipage, worthy of the young and interesting Monarch, who occupied the back seat in isolated state, whilst on the opposite side rode the Duchess of Sutherland and the Earl of Albemarle. As soon as it emerged from the triumphal Arch a general rush of the populace took place, and the most enthusiastic shouts rent the air, continuing many minutes without intermission.

In this order of procession her Majesty and her train wound their way from Buckingham Palace, up Constitution Hill, along Piccadilly, down St.

James's Street, Pall Mall, Cockspur Street, Charing Cross, Whitehall, Parliament Street, through the Church-yard, to the great western entrance of Westminster Abbey. At every point of the route the first glimpse obtained by her ardently expectant subjects of their "Peerless Sovereign Queene," graced with the bloom of youth and decked with the splendour of royalty, was the signal for one loud, long, fervent, enthusiastic cheer, which made the welkin re-echo to the joyful sound. This heart-thrilling welcome was renewed and was repeated—peal after peal of applauding huzzas came thundering upon the ear—shout followed shout, and acclamation burst after acclamation, until the music of the military bands and the discharges of the artillery were completely drowned in the roar of popular delight. And thus, amidst smiles, and cheers, and blessings, and the perpetual waving of hats and handkerchiefs, passed Queen Victoria from Buckingham Palace to the venerable abbey, within the walls of which her covenant with her people was to receive its solemn consummation. The gorgeous vehicle which conveyed her moved slowly forward, bearing her from the thousands and tens of thousands who fondly greeted her fair face on one spot, only to be greeted by other thousands and tens of thousands on every spot she traversed. The deep emotion evinced by the Queen on witnessing the cordiality of her reception, no doubt tended to heighten the enthusiasm of the spectators.

There was a sympathy between the Sovereign and her people, acting and re-acting upon each other. It was indeed a most affecting and mysterious sight, for all capable of serious reflection, to behold so young and beautiful a creature, upon her first entry into life, destined to become the main-spring of that vast machine of Government, by which the destinies of the British empire are regulated ; and there was something inexpressibly touching in the contrast between the apparent frailty of the instrument and the mighty task which Providence has assigned to it. Her youth, innocence, and gentleness, seemed, moreover, a benéficent pledge that in her days, peace, and joy, and love, should abound. Her Majesty was evidently impressed with the solemnity of the service about to be performed, and the importance of the ceremony in which she was to act the most conspicuous part. She looked pale and agitated, her lip occasionally quivered, and she was at times affected almost to tears, as the affectionate outburst of the myriads that thronged her path rose upon her ear, and their anxious but respectful gaze met her observant eye. She continued, however, to acknowledge the popular greetings by incessantly bowing, with grace and graciousness, to either side of the carriage ; a sweet smile frequently illuminated her countenance, imparting to it, even in the midst of her tremulous diffidence, a joyous tenderness which youth alone can command, and a female only can give expression to.

Nothing could exceed the magnificence and beauty of the pageant when all was in motion, and especially when viewed from any point which commanded a lengthened sweep of the whole ; and this advantage was pre-eminently enjoyed by the thousands who witnessed its gradual advance up Constitution Hill, which was crowded with spectators. An expression of admiration and delight was apparent on every countenance ; although, with an occasional exception in favour of the Duchess of Kent, or some other member of the Royal Family, the heartfelt acclamations of the multitude were reserved for their beloved Sovereign. At twenty-five minutes past ten the superb State Coach emerged from the noble archway which crowns the summit of the hill, and the moment a glimpse was caught of the Queen's countenance within it, there arose the joyous shout of such an immense multitude as was, perhaps, never before packed together in such a space since the world was a world. Within about fifteen minutes from the moment her Majesty and the last squadron of the Life Guards had passed Hyde-Park-corner, the line of the police force and military was simultaneously broken up, and the myriads who covered the street, who lined the palings, who filled the balconies all around, and who gave to the surface of the Green Park the appearance of a sea of heads, were pouring their mighty living stream through the gates of Hyde Park, which had been opened for the purpose, to enjoy there the de-

lights of fresh air and free space, as well as to enter into the amusements of the fair. Apsley House was crowded with fashionably-dressed ladies, who waved their handkerchiefs most enthusiastically as the gorgeous *cortège* slowly swept by it.

PICCADILLY.

From Hyde Park-corner to St. James's Street, not a spot was lost which ingenuity could avail itself of, in which to exhibit some token of loyalty and welcome. The balconies and windows of every house and shop were wreathed with evergreens, and festooned with flowers, each bearing its own appropriate device of "Long live the Queen," "God bless the Queen," &c. The Royal Standard of England floated in the breeze in various directions, and across the street and from almost every house, flags were suspended of every description. Large ranges of seats were erected at the corner of Bond Street, while the Bath Hotel shone resplendent with happy faces along the whole of its extensive balcony and at every window. That part of the Green Park which abuts on Piccadilly was thronged with gazing thousands; and ample accommodation to view the procession was provided before Burlington House, St. Alban's House, and many others. But there was one object in the *coup d'œil* which rendered this part of the line one of the most beautiful scenes which was to be met

with along the whole course of the procession—the tasteful structure which the Duke of Devonshire erected for the occasion on that portion of his wall which extends between the two entrance gates. It was divided into three separate compartments; the seats in all of the three being ranged amphitheatrically. In front of the central one, which was appropriated to the accommodation of his Grace's relatives and friends, were four fluted columns of the Ionic order, spirally entwined with wreaths of crimson silk; its interior was lined with rich chintz, and bore some resemblance to a handsome drawing-room. The Pavilion was based with his Grace's coat of arms, very elaborately worked and finely gilt. The whole was covered with rich scarlet cloth, and surmounted by a lofty crown; which, together with the motto "God bless the Queen," in extremely large characters, was hung with variegated lamps, preparatory to the illumination in the evening. Above the Pavilion waved the Royal Standard, and the Union Jack floated at either end. Orange trees, loaded with fruit and verdant foliage, were ranged along the wall on each side of this temporary saloon.

At a quarter before eleven the Procession reached this part of the line; and it is impossible for language adequately to describe the enthusiasm of the Sovereign's reception in this vicinity.

ST. JAMES'S STREET.

The view from the point which commands this street, together with the west end of Pall Mall, was perhaps the most splendid and magnificent that the Royal Pageant presented through its entire route. The Members of the various Clubs situated in this quarter, had arranged accommodation for several hundred ladies, upon a very sumptuous scale. The external decorations of Crockford's, which occupies the space of four ordinary houses at the least, were conspicuous ; two galleries, one over the other, were fitted up in front of the building, and these were handsomely trimmed with various coloured cloths, fancifully arranged. In front of one of these galleries preparations had been made for an immense illumination. English's Hotel, fronting Pall Mall, and Banting's, the Upholder, deserve also to be mentioned for their elegant decorations. The first was distinguished by graceful hangings of cloth and silken banners ; and the latter by a profusion of laurel, armorial bearings, and other embellishments. A very active rivalry was evinced amongst the houses of less pretension, and the result was the production of a *coup d'œil* of the most brilliant description. Numberless flags flaunted in the air, whilst the dawn of morning was enlivened by the thronging crowds of persons to take up their different positions on the

line ; and the movements of the various bodies of troops towards their allotted stations. Finally, the crowds became a waving mass, and as the long-wished for time approached, this mass appeared to become literally solid.

At length the head of the cavalcade made its appearance at the top of St. James's Street ; and as the splendid array moved on, filling the street from top to bottom, the sight was magnificent in the extreme. In consequence of the descent of the of the street from Piccadilly to Pall Mall, the whole of the carriages might be seen, one rising above the other, by a person standing at the lower end of the street ; and the shouting of the enthusiastic but orderly multitude, as Her Majesty proceeded onward in her course, the waving of white kerchiefs, the floating of the bright banners in the air, the intermingling of the splendid uniforms of the soldiery, with the more sombre dress of the assembled people, and the slow and majestic movements of the cavalry, altogether combined to produce an effect of the greatest grandeur.

On her Majesty's arrival opposite Marlborough House one of the traces of the state carriage broke, which caused her to be detained about five minutes.

PALL MALL

was, in point of decoration, the most highly finished portion of the line. The very elegant manner in

which English's Hotel at the end of the street was decorated, has been already noticed ; then came the extensive balconies erected in front of Marlborough House, and ornamented with wreaths of flowers. To this succeeded, on the same side, the United University Club, where arrangements on a very superior scale were made, for enabling the friends of the Members to obtain from their house a full view of the splendid spectacle. Near to this was the Ordnance Office, at which, perhaps, on the whole, the greatest number of persons were assembled. The next of importance was the Carlton Club, where elegant balconies were raised from the two floors, and both filled with company of the highest order. Before the house lately occupied by the Reform Club, large ranges of seats were erected ; the Travellers', Athenæum, and United Service Clubs, were also fitted up with canopies. All these galleries were thronged ; and their lovely occupants not only divided the public admiration with the procession of which they were spectators, but attracted the peculiar notice of the illustrious individuals of whom the procession itself was composed. The effect, moreover, was rendered still more striking by the absence of the more sombre male costume ; for the gentlemen seemed to confine themselves to the windows. Above the colonnade of the Opera House, and the windows and balconies of every house on the right side of Pall Mall and Cockspur Street, well-dressed women were also

crowded in gay confusion. Banners caught the eye in every direction, and in every variety of blazonry, while the costly arrangements for the general illumination gave a brilliancy to the *ensemble* of the scene that must have been witnessed to be adequately appreciated.

As nearly as possible at eleven o'clock the Queen passed the York Column in the state carriage. Unqualified delight at the splendour of the procession was the universal feeling, and it was fully justified ; but, above all, the presence of our youthful Queen, and the august occasion for which the procession was formed, gave it a charm that could not be surpassed, and made it an object of the highest interest to every native of Britain.

CHARING CROSS.

This place, and the streets in its immediate vicinity leading to the Abbey, presented from the earliest dawn a scene of unusual bustle and interest. Many persons passed the night in the open space in Trafalgar Square, in order to be in time for a good view of the procession. By six o'clock, the space between the statue of Charles I. and the front of the National Gallery was filled, as far as it could be with convenience to the standers ; but before nine it was crowded to a degree which rendered ingress or egress almost impossible. Around the statue of King Charles an octagon stand or

pavilion had been erected, and every seat in this building' was tenanted several hours before that named for the procession to start. The view from this point, whether directed towards Pall-mall, the Strand, or Whitehall, was truly magnificent, and highly calculated to convey to the mind of a foreigner an adequate idea of the vastness of the population of this metropolis, and the immensity of its wealth. The tasteful galleries which had been erected in front of the private and public buildings, on all sides of the pavilion, were filled with elegantly dressed ladies and gentlemen, as were also the windows and house-tops of every house in the vicinity from which a view could be obtained ; while the whole of the intervening space, with the exception of the opening through which the Royal cavalcade was to pass was densely crowded by the populace, who, on that side of Trafalgar Square which fronts the National Gallery, were enabled to represent a vast amphitheatre, by means of waggons, and other portable erections, placed along the paling which stretches from West Strand to the Union Club House, at the corner of Pall-mall East. The Royal Standard was hoisted on St. Martin's Church, and the roof of that edifice, as well as those of the National Gallery and the Italian Opera House, was covered with persons desirous of witnessing the splendid pageant.

At ten o'clock, when the firing of the Park guns announced that the procession had commenced its

movement from the Palace, the whole area between the east end of Pall-mall, the front of St. Martin's Church, the west end of the Strand, and the Admiralty, was filled or covered from the basement to the roof of the Houses with a living mass.

WHITEHALL.

The scene at this portion of the line was exceedingly imposing, more especially at the open space immediately in front of the Government offices. The Horse Guards was covered with galleries, and crowded with spectators, over whom the imperial Standard of England floated in all its unsullied glory. At the Admiralty were galleries tastefully decorated with various flags. On the opposite side of the street the Reform Club had fitted up temporary premises with three handsome galleries; Privy Gardens, also, were provided with long and tasteful galleries, which, filled with elegantly-dressed ladies, and overshadowed by trees, looked exceedingly striking and beautiful. The effect of these arrangements, added to the presence of the Life Guards with their gleaming armour and prancing steeds, was to give the open space of ground on which they were erected the appearance of some "lists" of chivalrous times prepared for a "passage of arms," in which knightly lances were to be shivered and knightly heads broken, rather than the more peaceful, but far more glorious, pageant, that formed the real business of the day.

The royal carriage was delayed a considerable time in Whitehall, near to the Admiralty, by some irregularity in the procession, highly to the gratification of those who were fortunately stationed in the neighbourhood. As the procession advanced towards the Horse Guards, her Majesty's attention was arrested by some policemen, who were making more use of their truncheons than the circumstances seemed to require: the Queen evidently remarked it with pain, and spoke to Lord Albemarle, apparently to desire that less severity should be used; the disorder, however, proving but momentary, no step was taken in consequence of her Majesty's benevolent interference. This anecdote is in perfect accordance with another that occurred earlier in the morning. A short time before her Majesty entered her carriage, it was observed to her that she must undergo a great deal of fatigue before the proceedings of the day were terminated, to which she replied "that the greatest anxiety she experienced was that no accident might occur" to mar the enjoyment of the day.

PARLIAMENT STREET

presented an appearance so beautiful and picturesque, that, on this enlivening occasion, it might fairly claim for its motto, "Nulli secundus." In the front of every house substantial galleries were erected, some of them reaching to the third story.

They were tastefully draperied, and the flags and streamers which many of them displayed had a most pleasing effect.

THE CHURCH-YARD.

The accommodations prepared for the public in the Abbey Church-yard were of the best description. The whole line, from the turn out of Parliament Street to the western entrance of the Abbey, had splendid galleries erected on either side ; each gallery capable of containing, with ample sitting room, nearly one thousand persons. Of these the most extensive and tasteful in decorations and design were the Canning Gallery and the Queen's Gallery, at the back of Canning Square, and the Victoria Gallery, stretching from opposite Palace-yard until it joined the Queen's Gallery at the end of George Street. The seats varied in price from ten shillings to two guineas. At the early hour of six nearly the whole line of galleries was filled with the most respectable occupants of both sexes, all elegantly dressed in the gayest attire suited to the joyous occasion. Even at this time the carriages of those parties who had a right of *entrée* at the western portal were approaching in considerable numbers. As the day advanced the scene became wonderfully animated. The rapid succession of the equipages of the nobility and gentry, the servants all decked

in their state liveries, some of them exceedingly splendid, formed a moving panorama of uncommon gaiety and elegance. Among the peers who arrived early was the Duke of Wellington:—he was instantly recognized, and was received with honest and well-earned approbation. A little before ten o'clock the Lord Chancellor appeared in his state carriage, bearing the seals:—he was accompanied by his secretary and mace-bearer.

As soon as the head of the procession was seen winding round from Parliament-street, the thousands who occupied the various galleries stood up, and cheered in the most enthusiastic manner, and their cheers were responded to by the countless multitudes that thronged the streets in every direction. The scene at this moment was truly magnificent, and such as could be witnessed in England alone. The gorgeous equipages, the splendid horses by which they were drawn, and the surpassing richness of the costumes of those who occupied them, together with the variety and costliness of the liveries, presented a spectacle which we believe has seldom been equalled and never surpassed. The procession passed on at a slow pace towards

THE WEST DOOR,

which was the grand centre of attraction for all who were not fortunate enough to behold the mag-

nificent pageant within ; for here the Queen would pause for a moment in her path to the scene of her crowning triumph ; and here again would the loyal and loving multitude be afforded the first sight of their anointed Queen—the first opportunity of welcoming her with the full choral burst of her people's congratulation. The line of seats continued around the western extremity of the Abbey churchyard—triple stories of galleries erected in front of the Westminster Hospital and Court House—balconies at the front and at the sides of the remaining houses in the little square—added to extensive platforms on the roofs, could not accommodate all who longed to view the procession at this point ; and at last the bare roofs, ridges, and parapets, were crowded with occupants, clinging to chimney-tops, and momentarily exposing themselves to the most imminent peril, to behold their youthful Queen on her way to assume the sceptre of her fathers.

At half-past eleven her Majesty alighted at the western entrance, where she was received by the Great Officers of State, the Noblemen bearing the Regalia, and the Bishops carrying the Patina, the Chalice, and the Bible. Her Majesty immediately repaired to her Robing chamber, whilst the Ladies and Officers of the Royal Household, and of the Households of the Princes and Princesses to whom no duties were assigned, together with the Ambassadors, immediately passed to the places prepared

for them, in the order in which their carriages had set down. Each of the Foreign Ambassadors was attended by a numerous suite ; and it is difficult to imagine any thing more glorious than their appearance as they entered the choir *en masse*, dazzling the eye by the variety and elegance of their costumes : the Hungarian dress worn by the Princes Schwartzzenburgh and Esterhazy is the richest and most becoming of any in Europe. The Countess Stroganoff, the Princess Schwartzzenburgh, and the Princess de Ligne, each accompanied their noble Consorts; their were superbly attired, and blazed in diamonds.

THE REGALIA.

A short time before ten o'clock the great Officers of State, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, the Noblemen appointed to carry the Regalia, all in their robes of estate, and the Bishops, who were to support Her Majesty, as well as those who were to carry the Bible, the Chalice, and the Patina, assembled in the Jerusalem Chamber, adjoining the Deanery. In that chamber the Regalia had been previously laid out on a table. They were delivered by the Lord Chamberlain of the Household to the Lord High Constable, and by him to Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, as Lord Great Chamberlain, and by his Lordship to the Noblemen by whom they were to be borne into the choir.

Mr. Planché, in his *Regal Records*, gives a detailed description of every article of the Regalia; and from that interesting Work is partly extracted the following brief notice of each :—

ST. EDWARD'S STAFF.—This is about four feet seven inches and a half in length, and of solid gold, weighing 8lb. 9oz., with a pike or foot of steel about four inches and a quarter in length, and a ball and cross at the top; the ornaments of simple raised gold; three different fillets, or bandages of leaves, are at equal distances; its diameter is three-quarters of an inch. The ball is of pure gold, with a raised bandage of precious stones encircling it, and a half bandage of the same round the top; it is surmounted by a cross upon an amethyst of immense value, as a pedestal.

THE SPURS.—A pair of large heavy gold spurs were carried by the Earl Marshal at the coronation of Richard I., and a pair of silver gilt spurs, valued at £1. 13s. 4d., was entered in the inventory of the regalia at Westminster in 1649. The present spurs, the symbols and ornaments of knighthood, are made of fine gold curiously wrought. They are the goad spurs of the Anglo-Saxons and Normans, having no rowels, but terminating in an ornamental point. New embroidered velvet straps were added to them for the coronation of George the Fourth. Knights are created by the investiture of the spur, and degraded by the ceremony of chopping it from their heels.

THE SCEPTRE WITH THE CROSS. The sceptre royal which is borne in the Queen's right hand is made of gold, 2 feet 9½ inches in length. At the bottom it is enriched with rubies, emeralds, and small diamonds, and above the hilt for 5½ inches is embossed with precious stones. The shaft is of burnished gold, twisted and wreathed. The top rises into a fleur-de-lis of six leaves, three of which are upright, and the others pendant; out of this flower issues a mound, formed of a large amethyst, valued at £20,000, garnished with table diamonds, and upon the mound is a cross patté of stones, with a large table diamond in the centre.

THE POINTED SWORD OF TEMPORAL JUSTICE is an extremely sharp-pointed sword; the length of the blade is forty inches, the breadth an inch and three quarters, the length of the cross, seven inches and a half.

THE POINTED SWORD OF SPIRITUAL JUSTICE.—The second sword, though pointed, is considerably more obtuse than the first; the length of the blade is about three feet and a half, the breadth an inch and a half; the handle is covered with gold wire. The length of the cross, which is plain steel gilt, is about eight inches.

THE CURTANA, OR SWORD OF MERCY, is the principal in dignity of the three swords borne before the Monarch. It is a broad bright sword, of which the length of the blade is thirty-two inches, the breadth almost two inches; the handle, which is

covered with fine gold wire, is four inches long, and the pommel an inch and three-quarters, which with the cross is plain steel gilt. The length of the cross is almost eight inches. This sword, for the purpose of answering allegorically to its name, is made to appear as though its point were broken off; the scabbard is covered with rich brocaded cloth of tissue, with a gilt ferrule, hook, and cape.

THE SWORD OF STATE, is a large two-handed sword, having a splendid scabbard of crimson velvet, decorated with gold plates of the royal badges in order, thus—At the point is the orb or mound; then the royal crest of a lion standing on an imperial crown; lower down are the portcullis, harp, thistle, fleur-de-lis, and rose. Nearer the hilt is the portcullis repeated. Next are the royal arms and supporters, and lastly the harp, thistle, &c., occur over again. The handles and pommel of the sword are embossed with similar devices, and the cross is formed of the royal supporters, having a rose within a laurel on one side and a fleur-de-lis on the other.

THE SCEPTRE WITH THE DOVE. The verge or rod with the dove, differs materially from the sceptre with a cross. It is not wreathed, but of an even surface; it is pure gold, three feet seven inches in height, three inches in circumference at the handle, and two inches and a quarter at the top; the pommel is adorned by a circle or fillet of table diamonds, and the stem is enriched with precious stones. At

the top is a globe surmounted by a cross, on which is placed a dove with the wings expanded, as the emblem of mercy. The latter is enamelled white, and the globe is encompassed by a fillet of diamonds.

THE ORB :—This is a ball of gold, encompassed with two fillets of precious stones, from the middle of the upper of which a large amethyst rises, which forms the pedestal of a cross, richly adorned with gems, and having three large pearls at its extremities. The whole height of both is eleven inches. The globe is most probably meant as an emblem of dominion, and the cross shows that religion ought to be the crown of empire.

ST. EDWARD'S CROWN is that with which the monarch is crowned ; and was made we are told for the coronation of Charles II., in imitation, or rather in commemoration of that which is said to have been worn by Edward the Confessor, and which, under the Commonwealth was, with the rest of the Regalia, entirely destroyed and broken up. It is a very rich imperial crown of gold, embellished with diamonds, rubies, emeralds, sapphires, and pearls. It is formed of four crosses, and as many fleurs-de-lis of gold, all enriched with precious stones, and having two arches ; also inlaid with precious stones and edged with pearls, crossing each other, and forming four bows by their depression in the centre ; whence rises a mound of gold, encircled with a band or fillet of gold embellished with gems, and upon which is fixed a cross

of gold similarly inlaid, and having three large oval pearls, one at the top of the cross, and two others pendant at the ends of the cross. The cap within is made of crimson velvet, turned up with ermine. The original cap was purple.

It may not be out of place here to add a few particulars respecting St. Edward's chair, the bracelets, &c., which are still kept, the former in the Westminster Abbey, the latter by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, for the purpose of being used at this important ceremony.

ST. EDWARD'S CHAIR is an ancient seat, of solid hard wood, with back and sides of the same, variously painted, in which the Kings of Scotland were in former periods constantly crowned: enclosed within its seat is a stone, commonly called Jacob's, or the fatal marble stone, of a steel colour, mixed with some veins of red. Tradition relates that it is the stone whereon the patriarch Jacob laid his head in the plain of Luz. It is also added that it was brought to Brigantia, in the kingdom of Gallicia, in Spain, in which place Gathol, King of Scots, sat on it as his throne. Thence it was conveyed into Ireland by Simon Breach, who was King of Scots, about seven hundred years before Christ; from thence into Scotland by King Fergus, about three hundred and seventy years afterwards; and in the year 850, it was placed in the Abbey of Scone, in the Sherifffdom of Perth, by King Kenneth, who caused it to be enclosed in this wooden

chair, and a prophetical verse to be engraved, of which the following is a translation :—

“ Should fate not fail, where’er this stone is found,
The Scots shall Monarchs of that realm be crowned.”

This antique regal chair having been brought out of Scotland by King Edward I., together with the golden sceptre and crown of Scotland, and solemnly offered by him to St. Edward the Confessor, in the year 1297 (from whence it derives the appellation of St. Edward’s Chair), has ever since been kept in the chapel called by his name, with a tablet affixed to it, whereon several Latin verses are written in the old English character, and has been the Royal chair in which all the succeeding Kings and Queens of this realm have been inaugurated. The chair on the present occasion was covered with a cloth of gold, which was in perfect keeping with the other rich decorations of the Abbey.

THE BRACELETS are of solid fine gold, an inch and a half in breadth, and edged with rows of pearl. They open by means of a hinge, for the purpose of being put on the arm, and are enamelled with the symbols of the three Kingdoms. The use of the bracelet among Kings is of very high antiquity. In Samuel we find, “And I took the crown that was upon his head, and the bracelet that was on his arm, and have brought them hither unto my lord.” Amongst the northern nations it

was a distinguished mark of the monarch and the warrior, so sacred, that the people of Denmark and of Iceland used to swear by it.

THE RING is a very ancient emblem of power. Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon the hand of Joseph, as a proof of his delegated authority. The investiture of this emblem can be traced in this country so far back as the days of the Heptarchy. The Coronation ring, metaphorically called "the Wedding Ring of England," is of pure gold, inlaid with a large table ruby, on which is engraved a plain or St. George's Cross. This ring is always newly made, or at least set, for the coronation of each succeeding Monarch.

THE AMPULLA, OR THE GOLDEN EAGLE the vessel which contains the consecrated oil, now used in British Coronations, is in the form of an eagle, with wings expanded, and stands upon a pedestal ; it has several miraculous traditions connected with it, of which the following is one :—
"They say that while St. Thomas a Becket was in banishment in France, as he was one night praying to the Virgin, she appeared, and presented him with a golden eagle, and a small glass or stone phial, assuring him that the happiest effects would be produced upon such monarchs as might be anointed with the unction it contained. She also specified a monk at Poitiers, to whom it was to be given, and he was to hide it under a particular stone in the Church of St. Gregory. Here then it

was preserved, together with an account of his vision, written by Becket, till the reign of Henry III., when it was revealed to a man of piety, who brought it to the Duke of Lancaster, by whom it was transferred to the Black Prince, who had it deposited in a strong chest in the Tower. The first coronation in which it was used was that of Henry VI. This tradition, of course, must rest upon the faith of the pious saint with whom it originated.

THE ANOINTING SPOON:—This is of gold, with four pearls on the broadest part of the handle. The bowl into which the liquid is poured from the beak of the golden Eagle or Ampulla, is finely chased; and from the character of its workmanship, and its exceeding thinness, the spoon is presumed to be very ancient.

Care was taken at an early hour in the morning, that the Ampulla was filled with oil, and was, together with the spoon, laid ready upon the altar, in the Abbey Church.

Procession from the West door of the Abbey into the Choir. The Queen having been robed, and the procession marshalled, it immediately advanced up the Nave into the Choir in the following order:

The Prebendaries and Dean of Westminster.

Officers of Arms.

Treasurer of her Majesty's

Comptroller of her Majesty's Household.	Household (attended by two gentlemen), bearing the Crim Bag with the Medal.
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Her Majesty's Vice-Chamberlain, acting for the Lord-Chamberlain of her Majesty's Household; attended by an Officer of the Jewel Office, bearing on a Cushion the Ruby Ring and the Sword for the offering.

The Lord-Steward of her Majesty's Household; his Coronet carried by a Page.

The Lord Privy Seal; his Coronet carried by a Page.

The Lord President of the Council; his Coronet carried by a Page.

The Lord Chancellor of Ireland, attended by his Purse Bearer; his Coronet carried by a Page.

The Lord Archbishop of Armagh, in his Rochet, with his Cap in his hand.

The Lord Archbishop of York, in his Rochet, with his Cap in his hand.

The Lord High Chancellor, attended by his Purse Bearer; his Coronet carried by a Page.

The Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, in his Rochet, with his Cap in his hand, attended by two Gentlemen.

PRINCESSES OF THE BLOOD ROYAL.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of CAMBRIDGE, in a Robe of Estate of Purple Velvet, and wearing a Circlet of Gold on her head. Her train borne by Lady Caroline Campbell, assisted by a Gentleman of her Household.

The Coronet of her Royal Highness borne by Viscount Villiers.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of KENT, in a Robe of Estate of Purple Velvet, and wearing a Circlet of Gold on her head.

Her Train borne by Lady Flora Hastings, assisted by a Gentleman of her Household.

The Coronet of her Royal Highness borne by Viscount Morpeth.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of GLOUCESTER, in a Robe of Estate of Purple Velvet, and wearing a Circlet of Gold on her head. Her Train borne by Lady Caroline Legge, assisted by a Gentleman of her Household.
The Coronet of her Royal Highness borne by Viscount Emelyn.

THE REGALIA.

St. Edward's Staff, borne by the Duke of Rox- burgh; his Coronet car- ried by a Page.	The Golden Spurs, borne by Lord Byron; his Coronet carried by a Page.	The Sceptre, with the Cross, borne by the Duke of Cleve- land; his Coronet car- ried by a Page.
The Third Sword borne by the Marquess of West- minster; his Coronet carried by a Page.	Curtana borne by the Duke of Devonshire; his Coronet borne by a Page.	The Second Sword borne by the Duke of Suther- land; his Coronet car- ried by a Page.

Black Rod.

Deputy Garter.

The Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, as Lord Great Chamberlain of England; his Coronet borne by a Page.

PRINCES OF THE BLOOD ROYAL.

His Royal Highness the Duke of CAMBRIDGE, in his Robes of Estate; carrying his Baton as Field Marshal; his Coronet borne by the Marquess of Granby: his Train borne by Major-General Sir William Gomm.

His Royal Highness the Duke of SUSSEX, in his Robes of Estate; his Coronet carried by Viscount Anson; his Train borne by the Hon Edward Gore.

The High Constable of Ireland, The High Constable of Scotland,
Duke of Leinster; Earl of Erroll;
his Coronet borne by a Page. his Coronet borne by a Page.

The Earl Marshal of Eng- land, the Duke of Nor- folk, with his Staff; attended by two Pages.	The Sword of State, borne by Viscount Mel- borne; his Coronet carried by a Page.	The Lord High Constable of England, Duke of Wellington, with his Staff and Baton as Field-Mar- shal, attended by two Pages
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The Sceptre with the Dove,
borne by the Duke of
Richmond; his Coronet
carried by a Page.

The Platina,
borne by
the Bishop of Bangor.

St. Edward's Crown,
borne by the Lord High
Steward, Duke of Hamil-
ton; attended by two Pages.

The Bible,
borne by
the Bishop of Winchester.

The Orb,
borne by the Duke of
Somerset; his Coronet
carried by a Page.

The Chalice,
borne by
the Bishop of Lincoln.

THE QUEEN,

The Gentlemen-at-Arms,
with their Standard Bearer:

The
Bishop
of Bath
and Wells.

in her Royal Robe of Crim-
son Velvet, furred with
Ermine and bordered with
Gold Lace; wearing the
Collars of her Orders; on
her Head a Circlet of Gold.

The
Bishop
of
Durham.

The Gentlemen-at-Arms,
with their Lieutenants.

Her Majesty's Train borne by

Lady A. Paget.

Lady F. E. Cowper.

Lady A. W. Fitzwilliam.

Lady M. A. F. Grimston.

Lady C. A. G. Lennox.

Lady M. A. L. Talbot.

Lady C. L. W. Stanhope.

Lady L. H. Jenkinson.

Assisted by the Lord Chamberlain of the Household (his Coronet
borne by a Page), followed by the Groom of the Robes.

The Duchess of Sutherland, Mistress of the Robes.

Marchioness of Lansdowne, First Lady of the Bedchamber.

Ladies of the Bedchamber : viz—

Countess of Charlemont.

Lady Lyttelton.

Lady Portman.

Marchioness of Tavistock.

Marchioness of Normanby.

Lady Barham.

Maids of Honour; viz.—

Hon. Margaret Dillon.

Hon. Miss Cavendish.

Hon. Miss Lister.

Hon. Miss Spring Rice.

Hon. Harriet Pitt.

Hon. Caroline Cocks.

Hon. Matilda Paget.

Hon. Miss Murray.

Women of the Bedchamber :

Lady Harriet Clive.	Lady Caroline Barrington.
Lady Theresa Digby.	Lady Charlotte Copley.
Hon. Mrs. Brand.	Viscountess Forbes.
Lady Gardiner.	Hon. Mrs. Campbell.

The Gold Stick of the Life Guards in waiting ; his Coronet borne by a Page.	The Master of the Horse ; his Coronet borne by a Page.
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The Captain General of the Royal Archer Guard of Scotland ;
his Coronet borne by a Page.

The Captain of the Yeoman of the Guard ; his Coronet borne by a Page.	The Captain of the Band of Gentlemen at Arms ; his Coronet borne by a Page.
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Keeper of her Majesty's Privy Purse.

Ensign of the Yeoman of the Guard.	Lieutenant of the Yeomen of the Guard.
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Exons of the Yeomen of the Guard.	Clerk of the Checque to the Yeomen of the Guard.	Exons of the Yeomen of the Guard.
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Twenty Yeomen of the Guard.

The Queen walked up the Nave with a firm step, and an air of calm and dignified composure, her countenance plainly indicating how deeply she was impressed with the solemnity of those holy rites which were about to be performed. The interior of the Choir at the moment of her Majesty's entrance presented a scene of surpassing grandeur and interest ; and could not fail to suggest reflections in which every Englishman might well indulge with conscious pride and exultation. The fair young Sovereign of the greatest empire in the world was

here to have the solemn sanction of religion given to that Crown which has descended to her as her rightful inheritance, with the joyous concurrence of a devoted people ;—here was she to receive the willing homage of all the nobles of the land, in the presence of the highest especial functionaries of all the Courts of Europe, and under the eyes of the Representatives of the nation. The most exquisite taste was displayed in all the arrangements for the fitting up and decoration of the Abbey; and the greatest admiration was elicited by the perfect consistency and keeping of all the parts, applied as they were to the interior of so ancient a fabric, and harmonizing so completely with the massive grandeur of the time-stained walls, which were judiciously kept in all their original architectural beauty and simplicity. From the great western entrance through the Nave, along the aisles into the interior of the Theatre, including the Choir, north and south transepts, altar, galleries above and on all sides, there was a perfect uniformity of style ; all that was requisite was embraced ; and, although gorgeous and magnificent almost beyond description, there was nothing to offend the eye of the most fastidious, or in any way to lessen the general effect of the whole. The altar displayed a vast quantity of massive gold plate used upon occasions of solemn state. Directly in front of it was St. Edward's Chair, richly gilt, and lower down in the same line was the faldstool, covered with purple velvet of the

richest description. Detached from this, and also in the same line in the area, was a dais, with an elevation of four steps, leading to the Chair of State or Throne, which was richly gilt, and emblazoned with the Royal Arms in bold relief. The orchestra, with its surpliced and red-hood choristers, flanking on both sides a band of instrumental performers habited in scarlet, formed a singular spectacle ; the female singers were all attired in white dresses, the simplicity of which formed a beautiful contrast to the gorgeous costumes by which they were surrounded. Opposite to these were the Members of the House of Commons, many of them habited in every variety of uniform, known to the military service of the country. In the north transept were the Peeresses, making the temple bright by the display of their beauty and the brilliancy of their decorations ; they all wore a profusion of diamonds, in coronets, bandeaus, or circlets ; and trains of amazing length of crimson velvet, trimmed with ermine, with lace imitations of ruffs, in the style of Queen Elizabeth. A few wore on the head wreaths of coloured gems, to imitate the natural wreath ; but the majority shone in diamonds of goodly price. In the south transept, again, were the Peers, a moving mass of glittering grandeur. Add to these, the varied attractions of the royal and ambassadors' boxes ; and the richness and beauty of the spectacle it is impossible for words to compass. The sun, which had been obscured during the morning, at

this period poured a flood of brilliant light through the lofty gothic windows upon the gorgeous uniforms, robes, and draperies, of every fantastic form and hue, glittering with diamonds and pearls and gold and silver lace, which met the eye in every direction. From the theatre of the vast pile to the vaultings, every point was crowded to excess.

Under such circumstances her Majesty entered the Abbey, and immediately a hundred instruments, and more than twice as many voices rang out their notes at once, and the loud anthem, blended with the applauding shouts of the spectators, echoed to the very roofs of the Abbey.

ANTHEM.

"I was glad when they said unto me, We will go into the house of the Lord. For there is the seat of judgment, even the seat of the house of David. O pray for the peace of Jerusalem; they shall prosper that love Thee. Peace be within thy walls, and prosperity within thy palaces.

"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

"As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen."

The Queen passed through the body of the church to the theatre; and having passed by the throne, made her adoration, kneeling at the faldstool set for her before her chair, and used some short private prayers; then sitting down (not in her throne, but in the chair before and below the throne) reposed

herself; the Bishops, her supporters, standing on each side; the Noblemen bearing the four swords on her Majesty's right hand, the Sword of State being nearest to the Royal person; the Lord Great Chamberlain, and the Lord High Constable, on her left; the other Great Officers of State, the Noblemen bearing the Regalia, the Dean of Westminster, Deputy Garter, and Black Rod, standing near the Queen's Chair; the Bishops bearing the Bible, the Chalice, and the Patina, stood near the pulpit, and the Trainbearers, the Lord Chamberlain of the Household, and the Groom of the Robes, behind her Majesty.

The Archbishop of Canterbury ascended the theatre and stood near the south-east pillar thereof.

During the performance of the Anthem the Royal and distinguished persons forming the procession, and whose attendance upon her Majesty was not required during the progress of the ceremony, were conducted to the seats reserved for them.

THE RECOGNITION.

At the conclusion of the Anthem, the Archbishop of Canterbury advanced from his station at the south-east pillar to the east part of the theatre, accompanied by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Great Chamberlain, Lord High Constable, and Earl Marshal (Garter King of Arms preceding them) and

made the Recognition thus :—"Sirs, I here present unto you Queen Victoria, the undoubted Queen of this realm ; wherefore all you who are come this day to do your homage, are you willing to do the same ?" The Archbishop and the Great Officers of State then proceeded to the other three sides of the theatre—south, west, and north, repeating the question at every side, the Queen meanwhile standing up in her chair, and turning and showing herself to the people on each side as the recognition was made ; and the assembled people attesting their joyous loyalty and devotion, by loud simultaneous and most enthusiastic shouts of

" GOD SAVE QUEEN VICTORIA !"

At the last recognition the trumpets sounded, the drums beat, and the band struck up the National Anthem. Her Majesty then resumed her seat, and the Great Officers their position near Her Majesty. The bearers of the regalia during the recognition remained standing about the Queen.

There was no portion of the ceremonial more interesting than the first act. The earnest manner and solemn tone of the Archbishop, and the beautiful and gentle bearing of the youthful Sovereign, as they each turned towards the assembled people in full sight of all, formed a most touching and graceful picture, while the reply of the people to each demand with loud and repeated acclamations of " God save Queen Victoria," and at the last

proclamation the sounding trumpets and the beating drums, as the triumphant note of recognition rushed quivering from vault to vault, and from pinnacle to pinnacle of that beautiful pile—so crowded with all that is most magnificent upon earth, produced a truly sublime effect ; and must have been felt by every one present with a gush of sympathy through every fibre of their frame.

THE FIRST OBLATION.

The Queen now proceeded to the Altar, and kneeling upon the steps made her first oblation of a pall or Altar-cloth of gold, and an ingot or wedge of gold of a pound weight, which having been presented to her Majesty by the Lord Great Chamberlain, kneeling, the Queen delivered to the Archbishop, one after another ; the pall to be reverently laid upon the altar, and the gold to be received into the oblation basin, and with the like reverence put upon the altar.

The Archbishop then said this prayer, the Queen still kneeling :

“O God, who dwellest in the high and holy place, with them also who are of an humble spirit, look down mercifully upon this Thy servant, Victoria our Queen, here humbling herself before Thee at Thy footstool ; and graciously receive these oblations, which, in humble acknowledgement of Thy sovereignty over all, and of Thy great bounty unto her in particular, she hath now offered up unto Thee, through Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.”

The Queen having thus offered, and so fulfilled his commandment, who said "Thou shalt not appear before the Lord thy God empty," proceeded as before to the Chair of State, on the south side of the Altar.

THE LITANY.

Then followed the Litany, read by the Bishops of Worcester and St. David's, vested in copes, and kneeling at a faldstool above the steps, on the middle of the east side of the theatre; the choir did not read the responses, in order conveniently to curtail the service.

At the end of the Litany the following prayer was added :—

"O God, who providest for Thy people by Thy power, and rulest over them in love, grant unto this Thy servant our Queen the spirit of wisdom and government, that, being devoted unto Thee with all her heart, she may so wisely govern this kingdom, that in her time Thy church and people may continue in safety and prosperity; and that, persevering in good works unto the end, she may through thy mercy come to thine everlasting kingdom, through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord. Amen."

The Bishops, having read the Litany, resumed their seats on the bench along the north side of the area.

THE COMMUNION.

Previous to the commencement of the communion service, the choir sung the Sanctus :—

“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts ;
“Heaven and earth are full of thy Glory ;
“Glory be to Thee, O Lord most High. Amen.”

The Archbishop then read the communion service ; the Choir singing the responses with much solemnity and effect.

The EPISTLE was read by the Bishop of Rochester, from 1 Peter, ii. 13—18.

The GOSPEL was read by the Bishop of Carlisle, the Queen with the people standing, from St. Matthew, xxii. 15—23.

The Archbishop then read the Nicene Creed, the Queen with the people standing as before.

The Service being concluded, the Bishops who had assisted, returned to their seats.

THE SERMON

was preached by the Bishop of London, from 2 Chronicles, chap. xxxiv, verse 31.—“ And the King stood in his place and made a covenant before the Lord, to walk after the Lord, and to keep his commandments, and his testimonies, and his

statutes, with all his heart, and with all his soul, to perform the words of the covenant which are written in this book."

Many parts of the ceremony seemed to fix and absorb her Majesty's attention, but it was most of all riveted during the sermon. Nothing could exceed the pious beauty of her expression when the Bishop alluded to the high character, the sterling worth, and the unfeigned religion of the late King, urging the young Queen, though now in the bloom of promise, to take example from the piety of her Predecessor, and by the humble and sincere discharge of her religious duties, to be prepared, like him, to meet with calmness and resignation that fatal destiny, which is alike uncertain and inevitable to princes as to peasants. Every word carried weight and authority with it, and all was hushed attention ; the earnest manner in which her Majesty listened, and the motion with which, on mention of the late King, she bowed her head on her hand as if to check a falling tear, were highly affecting.

THE OATH.

The sermon being concluded, and her Majesty having on Monday, the 20th day of November, 1837, in the presence of the two houses of Parliament, made and signed the declaration, the Arch-

bishop advanced towards the Queen, and standing before her, addressed her Majesty thus—

Madam,
Is your Majesty willing to take the oath !
And the Queen answering,
I am willing,

The Archbishop ministered these questions ; and the Queen, having a copy of the printed form and order of the coronation service in her hands, answered each question severally, as follows :—

Archbishop.—Will you solemnly promise and swear to govern the people of this United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and the dominions thereto belonging, according to the statutes in Parliament agreed on, and the respective laws and customs of the same ?

Queen—I solemnly promise so to do.

Archbishop.—Will you to your power cause law and justice, in mercy, to be executed in all your judgments ?

Queen—I will.

Archbishop.—Will you to the utmost of your power maintain the laws of God, the true profession of the Gospel, and the Protestant reformed religion established by law ? And will you maintain and preserve inviolably the settlement of the united church of England and Ireland, and the doctrine, worship, discipline, and government thereof, as by law established within England and Ireland, and the territories thereunto belonging ? And will you preserve unto the bishops and clergy of England and Ireland, and to the churches there committed to their charge, all such rights and privileges as by law do, or shall appertain to them, or any of them ?

Queen.—All this I promise to do.

Then the Queen arising out of her chair, attended by her supporters, and assisted by the Lord Great Chamberlain, the Sword of State alone being carried before her Majesty, proceeded to the altar, where kneeling on the cushion placed on the steps, and laying her right hand upon the Holy Gospel in the Great Bible, which had been carried in the procession, and was now brought from the altar by the Archbishop, and tendered to her Majesty, she took the coronation oath, saying these words :—

The things which I have here before promised, I will perform, and keep. So help me God.

Then the Queen kissed the book, and to a transcript of the oath set her Royal sign manual, the Lord Chamberlain of the Household holding a silver standish for that purpose delivered to him by an officer of the Jewish-office.

Although from the vast size of the Abbey, and the remote situation of the Queen's chair at the side of the altar the solemn response, "the things which I have here promised to do, I will perform—SO HELP ME GOD," was inaudible to all but those who immediately surrounded her Majesty, the impressive sincerity which characterised both her countenance and manner, was distinctly observable in every part of the Choir. To those who *could* hear, the interest must have amounted almost to pain; and the act must have been especially trying,

and full of sacred awe to the young and pure being thus brought to the footstool of the eternal Throne ; for the mere knowledge that the compact between Sovereign and People was being registered, though only conscious that such was the fact from the formula, communicated a subdued and chastened feeling to all.

THE ANOINTING.

The Queen having thus taken her oath, returned to her chair on the south side of the altar, where her Majesty had sat during the sermon ; while kneeling at her faldstool, the hymn *Veni, Creator Spiritus*, was sung by the choir, the Archbishop of Canterbury reading the first line.

The hymn being ended, the Archbishop read the following prayer, preparatory to the anointing :—

“O Lord, Holy Father, who by anointing with oil didst of old make and consecrate kings, priests, and prophets, to teach and govern thy people Israel, bless and sanctify thy chosen servant Victoria, who by our office and ministry is now to be anointed with this oil (here the Archbishop laid his hand upon the ampulla), and consecrated Queen of this realm ; strengthen her, O Lord, with the Holy Ghost the comforter ; confirm and stablish her with thy free and princely spirit, the spirit of wisdom and government, the spirit of counsel and ghostly strength, the spirit of knowledge and true godliness, and fill her, O Lord, with the spirit of thy holy fear, now and for ever. Amen.

The choir then sang the anthem :—

“ Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, anointed Solomon

King; and all the people rejoiced, and said: God save the King, long live the King, may the King live for ever. Amen. Hallelujah."

At the commencement of the anthem the Queen, rising from her devotions, went before the altar, where the Mistress of the Robes, assisted by the Lord Great Chamberlain, divested her Majesty of her crimson robe. The Queen then proceeded to King Edward's chair, which was placed in the midst of the area, over against the altar, covered with cloth of gold, with a faldstool before it, and sat down to be anointed. Four Knights of the Garter—namely, the Duke of Rutland, the Marquis of Anglesey, the Marquis of Exeter, and the Duke of Buccleuch (summoned by Deputy Garter), holding over her Majesty a rich pall of silk. The anthem being concluded, the Dean of Westminster, taking the ampulla and spoon from off the altar, held them ready, pouring some of the holy oil into the spoon, with which the Archbishop then anointed the Queen, in the form of a cross, on the crown of the head, and on the palms of both the hands, pronouncing the words—

"Be thou anointed with holy oil, as kings, priests, and prophets were anointed:—

"And as Solomon was anointed King by Zadok the priest, and Nathan the prophet, so be you anointed, blessed, and consecrated Queen over this people, whom the Lord your God hath given you to rule and govern, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Amen.

The Dean of Westminster then laid the ampulla and spoon upon the altar, and the Queen kneeling at the faldstool, the Archbishop standing on the north side of the altar, pronounced this prayer or blessing over her :—

“ Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who by his Father was anointed with the oil of gladness above his fellows, by his holy anointing pour down upon your head and heart the blessing of the Holy Ghost, and prosper the works of your hands : that by the assistance of his heavenly grace you may preserve the people committed to your charge in wealth, peace, and godliness ; and after a long and glorious course of ruling this temporal kingdom wisely, justly, and religiously, you may at last be made partaker of an eternal kingdom, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord.” Amen.

This prayer being ended, the Queen arose and resumed her seat in St. Edward's chair. The Knights of the Garter having returned the pall to the Lord Chamberlain, who delivered it again to the officer of the wardrobe, went to their proper seats.

THE SPURS AND SWORD, AND THE OBLATION OF THE
SWORD.

The spurs were brought from the altar by the Dean of Westminster, and delivered to the Lord Great Chamberlain, who, kneeling down, presented them to the Queen, who forthwith returned them to be laid upon the altar. Lord Viscount Melbourne, who carried the Sword of State, now delivered it to

the Lord Chamberlain (who gave it to an officer of the Jewel-house, to be deposited in the Traverse in King Edward's Chapel), and received in lieu thereof, from the Lord Chamberlain, another sword, in a scabbard of purple velvet, which he delivered to the Archbishop, who, laying it on the altar, said the following prayer :—

“Hear our prayers, O Lord, we beseech thee, and so direct and support thy servant, Queen Victoria, that she may not bear the sword in vain, but may use it as the minister of God for the terror and punishment of evil doers, and for the protection and encouragement of those that do well, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.” Amen.

Then the Archbishop took the sword from off the altar, and (the Archbishops of York and Armagh, the Bishops of London, Winchester, and others going along with him) delivered it into the Queen's right hand, saying,—

“Receive this kingly sword, brought now from the altar of God, and delivered to you by the hands of us the bishops and servants of God, though unworthy. With this sword do justice, stop the growth of iniquity, protect the holy church of God, help and defend widows and orphans, restore the things that are gone to decay, maintain the things that are restored, punish and reform what is amiss, and confirm what is in good order; that, doing these things, you may be glorious in all virtue; and so faithfully serve our Lord Jesus Christ in this life, that you may reign for ever with Him in the life which is to come.” Amen.

Then the Queen, rising up, and going to the altar, offered the sword there in the scabbard, and deli-

vered it to the Archbishop, who placed it on the altar ; after which the Queen returned and sat down in King Edward's chair. The sword was then redeemed for 100 shillings by Viscount Melbourne, who, receiving it from off the altar by the Dean of Westminster, and drawing it out of the scabbard (which he delivered to an officer of the wardrobe), bore it unsheathed before her Majesty during the remainder of the solemnity.

The Archbishops and Bishops who had assisted during this oblation returned to their places.

THE INVESTING WITH THE ROYAL ROBE, AND THE DELIVERY OF THE ORB.

Then, the Queen rising, the Imperial Mantle, or Dalmatic Robe, of cloth of gold, lined or furred with ermine, was by an officer of the wardrobe, delivered to the Dean of Westminster, and by him put upon the Queen, standing: the Queen, having received it, sat down. The Orb with the Cross was then brought from the altar by the Dean of Westminster, and delivered into the Queen's right hand by the Archbishop, pronouncing this blessing and exhortation :—

“Receive this imperial robe, and orb, and the Lord your God endue you with knowledge and wisdom, with majesty and with power from on high; the Lord clothe you with the robe of righteousness, and with the garments of salvation. And when you see this orb set under the cross, remember that the whole world

is subject to the power and empire of Christ our Redeemer: for he is the Prince of the kings of the earth, King of kings, and Lord of lords. So that no man can reign happily who derives not his authority from him, and directs not all his actions according to his laws."

The Queen delivered her orb to the Dean of Westminster, to be by him laid on the altar.

THE INVESTITURE PER ANNULUM ET BACULUM.

An officer of the Jewel-house now delivered to the Lord Chamberlain, who delivered to the Archbishop, the Queen's ring, in which a table jewel is enchased; the Archbishop put it on the fourth finger of her Majesty's right hand, saying:—

"Receive this ring, the ensign of kingly dignity, and of defence of the catholic faith; and as you are this day solemnly invested in the government of this earthly kingdom, so may you be sealed with this spirit of promise, which is the earnest of an heavenly inheritance, and reign with Him who is the blessed and only potentate, to whom be glory for ever and ever." Amen.

Then the Dean of Westminster brought the Sceptre and Rod to the Archbishop, and the Lord of the Manor of Worksop (who claims to hold an estate by the service of presenting to the Queen a right-hand glove on the day of her coronation, and supporting the Queen's right arm whilst she holds the Sceptre with the Cross) delivered to the Queen a pair of rich gloves; and, as occasion happened

afterwards, supported her Majesty's right arm, or held the sceptre by her side.

The gloves being put on, the Archbishop delivered the Sceptre with the Cross into the Queen's right hand, saying :—

“ Receive the Royal Sceptre, the ensign of kingly power and justice.”

Then he delivered the Rod with the Dove into the Queen's left hand, saying :—

“ Receive the rod of equity and mercy, and God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed, direct and assist you in the administration and exercise of all those powers which he hath given you. Be so merciful that you be not too remiss; so execute justice, that you forget not mercy. Judge with righteousness, and reprove with equity, and accept no man's person. Abase the proud, and lift up the lowly; punish the wicked, protect and cherish the just, and lead your people in the way wherein they should go: thus in all things following his great and holy example, of whom the prophet David said, ‘ Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest iniquity; the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre;’ even Jesus Christ, our Lord.” Amen.

THE PUTTING ON OF THE CROWN.

The Archbishop, standing before the altar, then took the crown into his hands, and laying it again before him upon the altar, said—

“ O God, who crownest thy faithful servants with mercy and loving kindness, look down upon this thy servant Victoria, our Queen, who now in lowly devotion boweth her head to thy divine

Majesty [here the Queen bowed her head]; and as thou dost this day set a crown of pure gold upon her head, so enrich her royal heart with thy heavenly grace, and crown her with all princely virtues, which may adorn the high station wherein thou hast placed her, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, to whom be honour and glory for ever and ever." Amen.

The Queen still sitting in King Edward's chair, the Archbishop, assisted by the same archbishops and bishops as before, left the altar; the Dean of Westminster brought the Crown, and the Archbishop taking it of him, reverently placed it upon the Queen's head.

The most imposing part of the whole ceremony was undoubtedly the crowning. No sooner had the imperial diadem pressed the royal brow, than peers and peeresses, simultaneously rising, placed their coronets on their heads, the spiritual dignities put on their caps, the whole building rang with cheers and cries of "God save the Queen," while salvoes of cannon told the hundreds of thousands collected without the Abbey, that Queen Victoria had assumed that crown, which heaven grant her long to wear! The scene was proud, thrilling, and magnificent. Her Majesty meanwhile maintained a tolerable degree of calmness, but the acclamations were so reiterated and long continued that she became at length evidently distressed, and turned her eyes several times inquiringly upon her royal Mother, as though desirous of reading in her countenance

whether any thing could or should be done to silence them, whilst her whole frame was observed to be shaken by a tremulous emotion. As order became gradually restored, however, her Majesty recovered her self-possession, and the Archbishop again advancing said—

“Be strong and of a good courage; observe the commandments of God, and walk in his holy ways; fight the good fight of faith, and lay hold on eternal life; that in this world you may be crowned with success and honour, and when you have finished your course receive a crown of righteousness, which God, the righteous judge, shall give you in that day.” Amen.

The followed the anthem.

“The Queen shall rejoice in thy strength, O Lord; exceeding glad shall she be of thy salvation. Thou hast prevented her with the blessing of goodness, and hast set a crown of pure gold upon her head. Hallelujah.” Amen.

THE PRESENTING OF THE HOLY BIBLE.

The Dean of Westminster then took the Holy Bible, which was carried in the procession, from off the altar, and delivered it to the Archbishop, who with the same Archbishops and Bishops as before going along with him, presented it to the Queen, saying :—

"Our gracious Queen ; we present you with this book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is wisdom ; this is the royal law ; these are the lively oracles of God. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this book ; that keep, and do, the things contained in it. For these are the words of eternal life, able to make you wise and happy in this world, nay wise unto salvation, and so happy for evermore, through faith which is in Christ Jesus, to whom be glory for ever." Amen.

The Queen delivered back the Bible to the Archbishop, who gave it to the Dean of Westminster, to be reverently placed again upon the holy altar, the archbishops and bishops who had assisted returning to their seats.

THE BENEDICTION AND TE DEUM.

And now the Queen having been thus anointed and crowned, and having received all the ensigns of royalty, the Archbishop solemnly blessed her Majesty ; all the bishops, with the rest of the peers, following every part of the benediction, with a loud and hearty Amen.

"The Lord bless and keep you ; the Lord make the light of his countenance to shine for ever upon you, and be gracious unto you : the Lord protect you in all your ways, preserve you from every evil thing, and prosper you in every thing good. Amen.

The Lord give you a faithful senate, wise and upright counsellors and magistrates, a loyal nobility, and a dutiful gentry ; a pious, and learned and useful clergy ; an honest, industrious, and obedient commonalty. Amen:

In your days may mercy and truth meet together, and righteousness and peace kiss each other ; may wisdom and knowledge be the stability of your times, and the fear of the Lord your treasure. Amen.

The Lord make your days many, your reign prosperous, your fleets and armies victorious : and may you be revered and beloved by all your subjects, and ever increase in favour with God and man. Amen.

The glorious Majesty of the Lord our God be upon you : may he bless you with all temporal and spiritual happiness in this world, and crown you with glory and immortality in the world to come." Amen.

Then the archbishop turning to the people, said :—

" And the same Lord God Almighty grant, that the clergy and the nobles assembled here for this great and solemn service, and together with them all the people of the land, fearing God, and honouring the Queen, may by the merciful superintendency of the Divine Providence, and the vigilant care of our gracious Sovereign, continually enjoy peace, plenty, and prosperity, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with the Eternal Father, and God, the Holy Ghost, be glory in the church world without en ." Amen

The choir began to sing the " Te Deum," and the

Queen went to the chair on which her Majesty first sat, on the east side of the throne, the two bishops, her supporters, the great officers, and other peers, attending her, every one in his place, the two swords being carried before her, and there "reposed herself."

A gleam of sunshine which now broke through the south great rose window, lighted immediately on her Majesty's crown, which sparkled like a galaxy, and lent a still more dazzling brilliancy to the scene.

THE INTHRONIZATION.

The "Te Deum" being ended, the Queen ascended the theatre, and was lifted up into her throne by the archbishops and bishops, and other peers of the kingdom, and being inthronized, or placed therein, all the great officers, those who bore the swords and sceptres, and the rest of the nobles, stood round about the steps of the throne, and the archbishop, standing before the Queen, said,

"Stand firm, and hold fast from henceforth the seat and state of royal imperial dignity, which is this day delivered unto you in the name, and by the authority of Almighty God, and by the hands of us the bishops and servants of God, though unworthy; and as you see us to approach nearer to God's altar, so vouchsafe the more graciously to continue to us your royal favour and protection. And the Lord God Almighty, whose ministers

we are, and the stewards of his mysteries, establish your throne in righteousness, that it may stand fast for evermore, like as the sun before Him, and as the faithful Witness in heaven." Amen.

The effect of this ceremony was extremely beautiful ; the ecclesiastical dignitaries and state officers being marshalled around in due degree, and the fair and noble train-bearers, all dressed alike in silver lama, wearing a wreath of pink roses on their heads, grouped behind the chair.

THE HOMAGE.

The exhortation being ended, all the peers did their homage publicly and solemnly to the Queen upon the theatre. The Archbishop kneeling down before her Majesty's knees, the rest of the bishops on either hand and about him did their homage together, for the shortening of the ceremony, the archbishop saying,—

"I William, Archbishop of Canterbury, (and so every one of the rest, I, —, Bishop of —, repeating the rest audibly after the archbishop,) will be faithful and true, and faith and truth will bear, unto you our Sovereign Lady, and your heirs, kings or queens of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. And I will do, and truly acknowledge the service of the lands which I claim to hold of you as in right of the church. So help me God."

The Archbishop then kissed the Queen's hand, and the rest of the bishops present after him.

Then the other peers of the realm did their homage in like manner. The dukes first by themselves, and 'so the marquises, the earls, the viscounts and the barons, severally ; the first of each order kneeling before her Majesty, and the rest with and about him, all putting off their coronets, the first of each class beginning and the rest saying after him :

"I, N., duke or earl, &c., of N, do become your liege man of life and limb, and of earthly worship, and faith and truth I will bear unto you, to live and die against all manner of folks. So help me God."

This part of the ceremony was peculiarly affecting, especially when the Duke of Sussex embraced her Majesty, and was obliged to be led off the theatre by the peers around him ; but there was no indication of popular feeling until the Duke of Wellington presented himself before her Majesty, to do homage for the dukes, when the shout of enthusiastic recognition was immediately raised, and prolonged even after his grace had descended from the theatre.

The peers having done their homage, stood all together round about the Queen ; and each class or degree going by themselves in order, putting off their coronets, singly re-ascended the throne, and,

stretching forth their hands, touched the crown on her Majesty's head, engaging by that ceremony to be ever ready to support it with all their power, and then each kissed the Queen's hand.

A very interesting incident occurred at this part of the proceedings: Lord Rolle, who was eighty-two years of age, on approaching the throne, had much difficulty, from his feeble and infirm state, to ascend even the first step. Her Majesty seeing how painful was the effort to the venerable nobleman, graciously rose, and advancing several paces, held out her hand to him to kiss; her kindness was seen on the instant, and the applause it elicited from the Members of the House of Commons, who were the first to observe it, was at once re-echoed throughout every part of the choir. During this lengthened ceremonial, the grace with which her Majesty presented her hand to be kissed, by each successive peer, was particularly remarkable. The duty of throwing about the coronation medals, which was done whilst the homage was performing devolved upon the Earl of Surrey, and he flung them around in every direction with a profuse hand. It was highly amusing to see the impatient avidity with which some of the gravest and most staid characters in the land, entered into a general scramble to catch them.

During the performance of the homage the Queen delivered the sceptre with the cross to be held by the Duke of Norfolk; the other sceptre and rod

with the Dove, was borne by the Duke of Richmond, who had carried it in the procession ; and the choir sang the following anthem :—

ANTHEM.

“This is the day which the Lord hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it.

Lord, grant the Queen a long life : that her years may endure throughout all generations.

She shall dwell before God for ever : O prepare thy loving mercy and faithfulness, that they may preserve her.

Blessed be the Lord thy God who delighted in thee to set thee on the throne.”

When the homage was ended, the drums beat, the trumpets sounded, and all the people shouted,—

“God save Queen Victoria.”

“Long live Queen Victoria.”

“May the Queen live for ever.”

The solemnity of the coronation being thus ended, the Archbishop left the Queen in her throne, and went down to the altar.

THE SACRAMENT.

Then the Offertory commenced, the Archbishop reading these sentences :—

“Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Charge them who are rich in this world, that they be ready to give, and glad to distribute ; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may attain eternal life.”

The Queen descending from her throne, attended by her supporters, and assisted by the Lord Great Chamberlain, the sword of state being carried before her, proceeded to the steps of the altar, where, taking off her crown, and delivering it to the Lord Great Chamberlain to hold, she knelt down.

The Queen then offered bread and wine for the communion, which being brought out of King Edward's Chapel, and delivered into her hands, the bread upon the paten by the Bishop that read the epistle, and the wine in the chalice by the Bishop that read the gospel, were by the Archbishop received from the Queen, and reverently placed upon the altar, and decently covered with a fair linen cloth, the Archbishop first saying this prayer :—

“Bless, O Lord, we beseech thee, these thy gifts, and sanctify them unto this holy use, that by them we may be made partakers of the body and blood of thine only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and fed unto everlasting life of soul and body, and that thy servant Queen Victoria, may be enabled to the discharge of her weighty office, whereunto of thy great goodness thou hast called and appointed her. Grant this, O Lord, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only mediator and advocate.” Amen.

Then the Queen kneeling, as before, made her second oblation, a purse of gold, which the Treasurer of the Household delivered to the Lord Great Chamberlain, and he to her Majesty. And the Archbishop coming to her, received it into the basin, and placed it upon the altar.

After which the Archbishop said :—

“O God, who dwellest in the high and holy place, with them who are of an humble spirit; look down mercifully upon thy servant Victoria our Queen, here humbling herself before thee at thy footstool; and graciously receive these oblations, which in humble acknowledgment of thy sovereignty over all, and of thy great bounty to her in particular, she has now offered up unto thee, through Jesus Christ, our only mediator and advocate.” Amen.

Then the Queen went to her chair on the south side of the altar, and kneeling down at her faldstool, the Archbishop proceeded with the Communion Service; and the Archbishop with the dean of Westminster, and the Bishops and Clergy, having received the Holy Sacrament, the same was administered to the Queen, the bread by the Archbishop, and the wine by the Dean of Westminster. At the conclusion of the Communion Service, the choir sang the

ANTHEM.

“Hallelujah: for the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ. And he shall reign for ever and ever, King of Kings, and Lord of Lords Hallelujah.”

The effect of this piece, and indeed of the whole of the music it is impossible adequately to describe ; now soft and slow sweetly stealing o'er the enchanted sense, now swelling into grandeur, and bursting into glorious diapason, rousing, thrilling, awing, soul-subduing.

The anthem being finished, the Queen left her chair of state, and proceeded to the altar, accompanied by the great officers of state, where the Archbishop of Canterbury read the final prayers.

“Assist us mercifully, O Lord, in these our supplications and prayers, and dispose the way of thy servants towards the attainment of everlasting salvation ; that among all the changes and chances of this mortal life, they may ever be defended by thy most gracious and ready help, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord our God, who upholdest and governest all things in heaven and earth ; receive our humble prayers, with our thanksgivings, for our Sovereign Lady Victoria, set over us by thy good providence to be our Queen ; and so together with her bless Adelaide the Queen Dowager, and the rest of the Royal Family, that they, ever trusting in thy goodness, protected by thy power, and crowned with thy favour, may continue before Thee in health and peace, in joy and honour, a long and happy life upon earth, and after death may obtain everlasting life and glory in the kingdom of heaven, through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Saviour, who with Thee, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth ever one God, world without end. Amen.

Almighty God, who hast promised to hear the petitions of them that ask in thy Son's name ; we beseech Thee mercifully to incline thine ears to us that have made now our prayers and supplications unto Thee, and grant that those things which we

have faithfully asked according to thy will, may effectually be obtained, to the relief of our necessity, and in the setting forth of thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always." Amen.

The Queen's demeanour throughout this long and exciting service was an union of grace, ease, and dignity. Her Majesty went through all its fatiguing details with composure and self-possession, keeping up unflaggingly an eager interest in the whole proceedings. On her entrance she looked rather pale, but moved along the choir and across the theatre to her Chair of State, with firm and composed gait and with gracious demeanour. A bright suffusion stole over her face during the recognition, which as the ceremony proceeded increased to a flush, but after the Crowning this again gave place to extreme pallor.

THE RECESS.

The whole Coronation office being thus performed, the Queen, attended and accompanied as before, the four swords being carried before her, descended from her throne crowned, and carrying her sceptre and rod in her hands, proceeded into the area eastward of the theatre, and passed on

through the door on the south side of the altar into King Edward's Chapel, and as she passed by the altar, the rest of the regalia lying upon it were delivered by the Dean of Westminster to the Lords that carried them in the procession, and so they proceeded in state to the chapel, the organ and other instruments all the while playing.

The Queen having gone into the chapel, and standing before the altar, delivered the sceptre with the dove to the Archbishop, who laid it upon the altar there. The Queen was then disrobed of her imperial mantle and arrayed in her royal robe of purple velvet, by the Lord Great Chamberlain.

The Archbishop, being still vested in his cope, then placed the orb in her Majesty's left hand. The gold spurs and King Edward's staff were given into the hands of the Dean of Westminster, and by him laid upon the altar. Which being done, the Archbishop and Bishops divested themselves of their copes, and left them there; proceeding in their usual habits.

Her Majesty now returned to her throne, and seated herself again upon it, while the procession was reforming, without seeming to feel the slightest inconvenience or fatigue from the length of the ceremonial she had gone through, on the contrary, it was manifested to every body that our beloved Sovereign, rather acquired strength and firmness in proportion to the time to which it was extended.

The Queen proceeded out of the choir and to

the west door of the abbey, at half-past three o'clock, her Majesty wearing her crown and bearing in her right hand the sceptre with the cross, and in her left the orb ; the Princes and Princesses the Peers and Peeresses wearing the coronets, the Archbishops and Bishops their caps, and the Kings at arms their crowns.

And here it may be acceptable to give a brief description of that dazzling and beautiful insignia of royalty, which had just been solemnly assumed by our youthful Queen. Her Majesty's Crown is in the highest degree costly and elegant, being much more tastefully designed, and much lighter and smaller than that worn by her two immediate predecessors. It is composed of hoops of silver, including a cap of deep purple velvet ; the hoops are completely covered with precious stones surmounted by a ball composed of small diamonds, and having a Maltese cross of brilliants on the top of it. This cross has in its centre, a splendid sapphire. The rim of the Crown is clustered with brilliants, and ornamented with rich *fleur-de-lis* and Maltese crosses. In the middle of the cross, which is in front of the crown, is the enormous heart shaped ruby, once worn by the chivalrous Edward the black Prince. Beneath this, in the circular rim, is an immense oblong sapphire. There are many other precious gems, emeralds, rubies and sapphires, and several small clusters of drop pearls. The Crown is turned up with ermine.

The procession returned from the abbey to Buckingham Palace, in the same order as that in which it arrived, and our anointed Sovereign was received with, if possible, still more ardent testimonies of rejoicing than on the former occasion ; indeed the sight of the Crown which so well became her fair and open brow, seemed to inspire the accumulated thousands with new stores of loyalty and love ;—

“ Awe struck the much admiring crowd
 “ Before the virgin vision bowed,
 “ Gazed with an ever new delight,
 “ And caught fresh virtue at the sight.
 “ Where’er she passes thousands bend,
 “ And thousands, where she moves attend ;
 “ Her ways, observant eyes confess,
 “ Her steps approving praises bless ;
 “ While to the elevated maid
 “ The homage of the heart is paid.”

In passing through the church yard the progress of the state carriage was impeded for some minutes by the enthusiasm of the populace, during which time a scene was enacting which afforded equal amusement to the Queen and her subjects. Her Majesty experienced some difficulty in keeping the Crown upon her head, as each inclination in answer to the constant salutations that awaited her, threatened to displace the imperial diadem, and her efforts to retain it in its rightful position, were much impeded by the sceptre and orb, which oc-

cupied either hand ; the Duchess of Sutherland at length endeavoured to assist her Majesty, and both the illustrious Ladies seemed highly entertained with the Queen's mischance ; the mirthful laugh with which her Majesty treated this little episode, went straight to the hearts of all who witnessed it, and was answered by a loud and prolonged shout of sympathetic enjoyment. Again at the west end of Pall-mall, the cavalcade met with an unforeseen delay, and her Majesty most condescendingly made use of the opportunity to show herself to the best advantage to the surrounding multitude ; she ordered the door of the carriage to be thrown open, and sat quite forward to the full view of all who were fortunate enough to be near the spot. Her Majesty having disrobed of her imperial mantle, her elegant dress of blonde lace over white satin, profusely adorned with brilliants was distinctly seen, her figure as she sat in her state chariot, her head crowned, and the sceptre of Empire in her hand, was graceful in the extreme, and her emotions, in acknowledging the greetings of her people peculiarly elegant. On reaching Hyde Park Corner, the excitement she had been so long enduring, at length overpowered the firmness of her spirits, and on passing under the triumphal arch on Constitution Hill, a tremendous burst of acclamation once more oppressed her, she let the sceptre fall from her hand and gave vent to a flood of tears. Her Majesty, however, recovered herself suffi-

ently to answer to the last salutations of her subjects, as the Palace gates closed upon her, under a royal salute, precisely at six o'clock.

Thus ended the heart inspiring solemnities of this glorious day,—a day which having now passed into history, will, it is fervently hoped, be for ever found amongst its brightest pages. May the remembrance of it through a long and prosperous future, kindle afresh the chivalrous enthusiasm with which earth's fairest diadem was seen to sparkle for the first time, on the pure brow of our maiden Queen. May the LORD lift up the light of his countenance upon her, and bless, preserve, and keep her; may HE strengthen her arm, and endue her heart with all heavenly graces, that the name of VICTORIA may be transmitted in glory, honour, and love, to the remotest generations; and may her presence be ever hailed, as when the trumpets and artillery announced that her solemn inauguration was completed, with the universal and joyous shout of—God save the Queen!—Long live the Queen!—May the Queen live for ever!

THE FAIR IN HYDE PARK.

Among the amusements provided by Government for the celebration of the day, that which afforded the highest gratification to the public, was the Fair in Hyde Park, which Park on the appointed morning bore witness to the result of four

days of active and incessant preparation in a truly astonishing degree. On entering the Park at sunrise a very extraordinary scene presented itself to the spectator; at the first glance it appeared as if hostilities and not enjoyments were about to occupy all; for an immense encampment covered the crown of the Park from the margin of the tranquil Serpentine to within a trifling distance of the several main entrances to the usually sylvan scene. Marquees, tents, booths, of every form and construction, and nearly a thousand in number lay grouped together with, at first, all the confused appearance of haste and chance; but a closer survey showed that much indeed of military regularity had been observed in setting out the grand line of circumvallation, as well as the almost numberless parallels and intersections of the interior. And although banners and pennons there were of every country, tribe, and hue, the breeze that unfurled them passed over the regions of peace, usurped for the time, if usurpation it might be termed, by the legions of delight, and not the phalanxes of war. Pleasure had sent forth her pioneers, and had occupied the ground to some purpose, in the provision of every entertainment the most determined of her votaries could desire.

Until a later hour than had been previously calculated upon the ground occupied by the fair, had scarcely any other living occupants, than the proprietors of the several booths and their assistants;

it seemed as if the whole had been raised in a spirit of mockery ; but as soon as the procession had passed the Park gate, hundreds began to pour in, soon aggregating to thousands, and the ceremonial of opening the fair began. By previous arrangement, it was understood that the signal of commencement should be the third stroke of a sonorous East Indian gong, sounded at the theatrical booth of Johnson and Lee. At this signal the musical bands at the various places of amusement struck up, "God save the Queen," and a simultaneous shout from the congregated multitudes, became the precursor to nine times nine hearty and almost deafening huzzas. And now, if the morning had been somewhat unpromising, if disappointment had terminated the hopes of many to view the procession, the merry look of a countless mass of happy beings evinced that they saw enjoyment before them, and were determined to partake of it, each according to his taste, and all with right goodwill. A glorious sun, too, breaking at length through that hazy interception, which sailors anomalously call "the pride of the morning," smiled down with the sanction of nature, upon the efforts of art, that all might be happy.

After the procession had returned to the Palace, the multitude congregated in the fair at Hyde Park, to an extent far exceeding any assemblage of persons on one spot that the metropolis or its neighbourhood has ever contained ; but so provident and

complete had been the arrangements made by the proper authorities, and so effectively were they carried into practice by the police, that greater order prevailed than we ever witnessed on any similar occasion.

At eight o'clock the scene, as surveyed from Williams's gallery, nearly in the centre of the fair, was of the most animating description, nor was it less attractive in scenic effect when the illumination of the houses in Park-lane formed the outline of the view, and the myriads of lamps lighted up in the fair, threw irregular masses of light on the ever-moving crowds. Without doubt the liberal preparations made under the direction of the Board of Ordnance, for a display of fireworks in the two Parks, but especially of those in Hyde Park, had tended very materially to increase the number of persons abroad. The stages erected for this purpose, circumscribed by an extensive pallisading, were so constructed that the display of every variety of that branch of the exhibition could be viewed from any part the Park.

THE GREEN PARK,

From a very early hour of the morning began to be occupied by countless throngs, anxious to take their part in the demonstration of public joy at the event about to be solemnized, as well as to witness

the brilliant and gorgeous pageant by which that solemnization was to be accompanied. Almost from the very peep of dawn a continuous flow of population, principally of the humbler classes, commenced taking their stations round the inclosure, and the ready industry which is always vigilant to satisfy the wants of the public on such occasions, was early and active, and whilst the wealthy and aristocratic paid large prices for better accommodation in the streets along the line of route, those less wealthy or more enterprising, were enabled at a very moderate charge to enjoy standing room, until they were tired of standing, or to risk the integrity of their limbs on a very crazy platforms, for the chance of enjoying the sight, not merely of the pageantry, but of that concentrating object of the affections-not less of the humblest than of the most exalted, the young and happy Sovereign whose high destiny it is to rule over a great, an enlightened, and a glorious empire. As is usual on all occasions when the lieges assemble in large numbers, the interval of expectation was filled up by those ready but hearty and good-humoured expedients, which, though perhaps too rough for delicate nerves, nevertheless tend to divert the attention, and keep alive the vivacity and good temper of that most formidable of animals, an overgrown London crowd. From the time that the large and multifarious masses had subsided into something like regularity, the appearance of the Green Park began to possess

a highly picturesque character, and accompanied by an excellent pictorial effect. Standing in any elevated position in the Park, the eye took in a gratifying and imposing exhibition of public feeling. The stately mansions prominent all round, seemed crowded in every part, even to the house-tops, with anxious and extensively gratified spectators. In the distance, at one side the range of Piccadilly, with its brilliant display of beauty and fashion, on another side some of the fine houses on the same range with Stafford House exhibited a similar degree of animation and bustle, whilst that princely mansion itself stood conspicuous for the extent and splendour of the preparations made therein, to do honour to the auspicious occasion. Looking towards St. James's Park, a picturesque and unusual scene presented itself—namely, the encampment of the Artillery Brigade ; the white tents erected at regulated intervals along the green and velvet sward—in association with the bustle of moving troops, advancing from one point to another, had a very agreeable, though singular effect. It is certainly an unusual sight to see a military encampment in the centre of the metropolis, and the absence of the jealousy of older times, is the best proof that there is now no reason for its existence. The procession at length began to move, and on the appearance of the Queen she was received with a burst of hearty and enthusiastic welcome, which she acknowledged with peculiar graciousness, seem-

ing to be deeply affected by the intense and warm-hearted reception which her subjects had crowded to give her. The Cavalcade passed along, accompanied, enhanced, and dignified by all the circumstances calculated to give it effect and *eclat*, and after a due space of time had elapsed, the firing of the guns announced that her Majesty had reached the Abbey.

During the protracted interval between the departure and return of the Royal procession, the Green Park lost nothing of its bustling and vivacious appearance. It rather became more animated, as fresh accessions of the lieges poured in. In the centre of the Park, a large enclosure had been erected for the purpose of a grand and extensive display of fireworks. In another part were two large booths, appropriated to the entertainment of the multitude, for which purpose an ample store of luxurious fare had been previously laid in. The most scientific and philosophical amongst the crowd were also afforded an opportunity to become versed in all the mysteries of aerostatics, for Mrs. Graham's balloon was inflated in an enclosed spot at the north-west corner of the Park, and nearly opposite Apsley House. The filling commenced about twelve o'clock, and the immense multitude were kept in good humour, by the ascent of several pilot balloons. The day was remarkably fine for the ascent; scarcely a breath of air agitating the atmosphere. The Royal salute which announced the coronation

of her Majesty, Victoria the First, was the signal of preparation for the ascent of the monstrous machine from the earth. The augmenting crowd seemed to join in the wish, that the signal which was to announce the great event to thousands who were not witnesses of the joyous scene, should declare the occurrence from the aerial regions. At ten minutes past two, Mrs. Graham and Captain Currie, her companion on several previous occasions, entered the car, and immediately afterwards the balloon being liberated from its moorings began to rise. For many minutes it appeared to be making a perpendicular ascent, but afterwards having got into contrary currents of air, made a complete circuitous route of the metropolis. At one time it was again hovering over the Park, whilst a few minutes afterwards it appeared directly above the city. After being in the air for about an hour and a half, the balloon finally effected a landing in Marylebone-lane, where it was righted without much damage. Mrs. Graham afterwards gave the following account of her adventures :—

“There being various reports relative to my descent with the balloon afloat, I beg to state the following brief particulars :—Captain Currie and myself ascended from the Green Park opposite Gloucester House, the wind at the time being nearly due south. A more splendid view of the metropolis it would be impossible to conceive. St.

James's, the Green, and Hyde Park teemed with thousands, desirous of rendering homage to their youthful Queen. It is impossible that London, could have presented a more interesting appearance, the eastern portion of the metropolis having contributed its inhabitants to that of the west. No aeronaut was perhaps ever so long over the metropolis, but the currents of air varied so much, and were yet so light, that we found it impossible to get away from the metropolis. On leaving the Park the thermometer stood 84deg. Fahr., but when we had ascended for 12 minutes it fell to 53 degrees. This caused a very great condensation of gas, and we were obliged to discharge a quantity of ballast ; when we had further ascended the thermometer fell to 42 degrees, which so sensibly affected the power of the gas (which, owing to the sun's rays upon the surface, in the morning during the time of the inflation, was greatly rarified), as to compel us to discharge a still greater quantity of ballast. We had been successively over St. Paul's, Lambeth Palace, and the Penitentiary, and we were twice over the spot from which we ascended. Not meeting with a current which was sufficient to enable us to leave London, after discharging all the ballast and every movable article, with the exception of the grapnel, and having remained in the air upwards of an hour and a half, we descended in Marylebone-lane, near Wigmore-street, without the slightest injury, although much damage is done to

the balloon and netting, on account of the narrowness of the passage where we fell."

Captain Currie, the intrepid companion of Mrs. Graham, describes the ascent as one of the most hazardous, which it is possible for an aeronaut to encounter. The descent also in such a situation, required more than ordinary presence of mind, but its difficulty was much alleviated, by the prompt assistance afforded by the inhabitants. Probably no aeronaut had ever before been met by such a calm as that which commemorated the Coronation ascent.

On her return, the Queen was welcomed with the same gratulations as had been offered in the morning. Her Majesty did not manifest any sense of weariness after the fatigues she had undergone, but up to the moment of her entering Buckingham Palace, her energy and vivacity appeared undiminished.

At a very late hour in the evening, a magnificent display of

FIREWORKS,

was exhibited in the Green Park, and attracted from the minor splendours of the illuminations in the streets, a multitudinous concourse of spectators. The fireworks were under the direction of Mr. Gaffin, assisted from the Royal Laboratory at Woolwich. They were very splendid, and con-

sisted of batteries of maroons, coloured fire, balloon mortars, *pots de aigrettes tourbillions*, and sundry fixed pieces, representing various devices. Amongst the latter was a colossal figure of Queen Victoria, painted on canvass, and placed under a triumphal pyrotechnic arch. It was so contrived as to be altogether invisible, until a brilliant display of rockets were made to fire the triumphal arch, when the figure and its accessories became brilliantly prominent. This device had an admirable effect, and was applauded with loud and hearty cheering. The fireworks were very carefully as well as very splendidly got up, and reflecting great credit on the professional skill of those engaged in their production; and their effect was much increased by the distant views of the various magnificently illuminated mansions surrounding the Parks, at different points.

THE THEATRES.

At six o'clock, all the theatres of the metropolis were gratuitously thrown open to the public, and notwithstanding, that so many other attractions abounded throughout the town, they were literally crammed as soon as their doors were opened.

As the evening drew in the numerous and splendid

ILLUMINATIONS,

already prepared, started successively into glowing life. The grand line of streets from Charing-cross to the Mansion House, comprehending the Strand, Fleet-street, Ludgate-hill, St. Paul's Church-yard, and Cheapside, upon all occasions of national interest and excitement, presents features of attraction, which are not offered by any other part of the metropolis. It is peculiarly the region of shops and shopkeepers, and it is gratifying to perceive the generous rivalry with which they display their loyalty or their patriotism, and afford strangers an opportunity of judging of the opulence of which London boasts. Nor will it be supposed that in celebration of the auspicious event, which made London for the moment the focus of attraction, not only to the rest of England, but to distant parts of the world, the class of persons of whom we have been speaking, exhibited a less than ordinary desire, to render the tokens of their attachment and fidelity, worthy of the occasion which called them forth. Verily, so far as gas and oil can betoken enthusiasm in a cause, the loyalty of this district was unquestionable. One blaze of light extended along the whole distance; in vain the eye sought for the grateful rest which a dim corner might afford; Crowns, Stars, the initials V. R., Wreaths, arranged in every variety of shape and

form which taste and ingenuity could devise, beamed down upon the dense and motly throng in uninterrupted succession. No description of the scene can convey accurately, the effect which was produced. So brilliant was the light that the dark walls of the houses were scarcely discernable; and the blazing devices suspended in air, seemed the work of magic.

These loyal demonstrations, however, were far from being confined to any particular locality, the whole of the metropolis took part in them, exhibiting such a scene of rejoicing as was perhaps never before witnessed; and even for miles around the same generous spirit of emulation very generally prevailed.

PROVINCIAL CELEBRATION.

It was not in the metropolis alone, that this memorable day was celebrated with exuberant expressions of love and loyalty; one united wish seems to have pervaded all classes, ranks, ages, and conditions, to make it truly a day of rejoicing throughout the length and breadth of the land, and for weeks. previously the Provincial Journals had their columns filled with the proceedings of public meetings, and announcements of subscriptions on the part of the rich, to enable their less wealthy fellow subjects to join with them in celebrating it in a suitable manner; it was every where

strictly regarded as a holiday, and throughout England, Ireland, and Scotland public dinners, feasts to the poor, processions, balls, and illuminations were the order of the day. The ceremonies attending the celebration at BRIGHTON, are here recorded as a specimen of the whole.

It was resolved by the inhabitants of this large and populous town, to dine the poor children of the Parish on the Old Steine, to hold a fair on the Level, to provide rural sports for the labouring classes, and to set the day apart as a high holiday. As the time approached Mr. Catt, the brewer of this place, signified his intention of giving a bullock, for the purpose of being roasted whole on the North Level, and on Wednesday evening it was drawn round the town, preceded by a band of music. A fireplace was constructed on the Level, and the bullock was put down to roast at seven o'clock in the evening, before a large fire. The morning of Thursday happily proved fine, and it was ushered in by a lively peal on the bells, of the venerable tower of St. Nicholas. The Royal Standard was hoisted on the tower and at the battery, and flags and banners were put on numerous private houses, many of them bearing inscriptions, "Long live Victoria, our youthful Queen," and various others. At ten o'clock all the shops were closed, and crowds of persons continued to flock towards the Level, to get a sight of the bullock; and also to the Old Steine, where tables

were arranged to dine about 6,000 children. Sub-committees were appointed to superintend the arrangements, and at twelve o'clock, the provisions were placed on the table, and the children of the various charity schools and others, walked in procession to the grounds with flags and banners, and preceded by their respective tutors. Barriers were placed across the road connecting Cattle Square with St. James's Street. The concourse of spectators at this period was immense, and crowds of persons continued to flock to the scene of action. All the provisions being placed on the table, the signal for commencing an attack upon them was the hoisting of a flag. The carvers and waiters consisted of tradesmen and sons of tradesmen, all of whom entered upon their respective occupations with alacrity, and the children were soon supplied. The public obtained admission to view the dinner by tickets, and it was calculated that from 8,000 to 10,000 persons had assembled on the Steine. The houses around the Steine was filled with elegantly dressed females, which imparted additional brightness to the festival. The battery guns fired a Royal salute ; bands were playing, and the utmost hilarity and joy was visible among the assembled thousands.

The object that attracted the most curiosity at the dinner-table, was a huge plum-pudding, two feet six inches in diameter, and weighing 214lbs. As a fit companion to this mountain of sweets a

sheep roasted whole was placed beside it. The tables contained besides 400 smaller plum-puddings, 4,000 rolls, 1,700lbs. of beef, and 333 gallons of beer.

Whilst this was going on, the children of the National School, to the number of about 450, were dining on the platform, at the outer pier-head. This dinner was given to the poor by Sir Samuel Brown and the Chain Pier Company. After dinner each of the children was allowed a glass of wine, to drink the Queen's health, and at the termination of the feast they sang the national anthem, and also a hymn commencing 'Lord of heaven, and earth, and ocean,' which had received some alterations appropriate for the occasion. Above eighty children from Lady Jane Peel's school, also dined on the pier, and at the conclusion of the dinner, about forty of the Chain Pier Company and their friends partook of a cold collation in the Royal saloon. After the dinners, the attention of the crowd was turned to the north part of the town, where there was a fair on the Level. A quantity of ale was given away on the ground when the bullock was cut up. All kinds of games of the olden times were resorted to, and a happier or more joyous scene we never witnessed. The committee who had so ably conducted the proceedings, dined together in the Royal Gardens, at four o'clock, under a spacious marquee. The High-Constable, Mr. Bradshaw, presided, and the intervals between

the toasts were filled up by some excellent glees, executed in first-rate style by our local singers. The gardens, towards the evening, were thronged with ladies, many of whom amused themselves by dancing on the green. The entertainments at the gardens closed with a magnificent display of fire-works. The company, however, did not separate, but continued to enjoy themselves with song, toast sentiment, and dancing, till nearly break of day. Her Majesty's tradespeople illuminated their houses most brilliantly.

The following Anthem was composed for, and sung on the occasion, by the children of the Sunday Schools at Lockwood, Yorkshire.

Our hearts, with one accord,
We raise, O Lord, to thee,
And with our tongues unite
To urge the humble plea,
That thou wouldst bless Victoria's reign,
And safely guide our youthful Queen.
This day shall witness bear
Allegiance full and free,
That we to Princes share,
Because of thy decree.
Then watch thou o'er Victoria's reign,
And crown with blessings, Lord, our Queen.
Preserve her Lord throughout
From every subtle foe,
The traitors darkened plot,
Do thou for her o'erthrow.
Make prosperous, Lord, Victoria's reign,
And crown with peace our youthful Queen.

minute accuracy all the events of the memorable 28th. of June, 1838, from the salute at sunrise, to the final closing of the Palace gates, upon the return of her Majesty at the conclusion of the splendid ceremony. One small extract will gratify our readers, and at the same time present some little idea of the poetical interest which pervades the volume. After a lively description of the gathering of the crowd, the formation of the procession, its progress to the abbey, and her Majesty's reception there; the author gives a spirited sketch of the opening ceremonial of the Coronation—the presentation of the Sovereign to her subjects by the venerable Primate, and her recognition by the people, with loud shouts of “God save the Queen.”—During the gradual calming of the agitation attendant on this act, a large proportion of the spectators are supposed privately to lift their hearts in prayer somewhat to this effect:—

God save Thee, God bless Thee,
Thou innocent flower,
With mercy caress thee,
And guard thee with power.
As now dost thou flourish,
All graces possessing,
So still may he nourish
With dews of his blessing.
His sunshine above thee
Still ever be proved,
That none be more lovely
None e'er so beloved.

Yet faint be that beauty
To image thy mind,
Where meekness with duty
Shall aye be combined.
Undazzled by station,
Unawed by the crowd,
Too pure for temptation
Too great to be proud ;
Too happy to borrow,
One joy not made holy
By the soothing of sorrow,
And raising the lowly ;
Be those only thy tears,
That yield pleasure in flowing ;
Through a fulness of years
Each its blessing bestowing :
Till late,—but for mortals
Too early, whenever—
Thou shalt pass through the portals,
Where sorrows pass never :
Scarce in purity whiter,
Unchanged but in name ;
Thy crown shall be brighter,
Thyself be the same.

The following beautiful lines, the production of the talented Mrs. Cornwall Baron Wilson, written on seeing the Crown as prepared for the Coronation, may aptly conclude our detailed account of that auspicious ceremony :—

THE CROWN OF ENGLAND.

Yes ! many a bright and costly gem
 Graces VICTORIA's diadem ;—
 And shines, like England's flag unfurled,
 The pride and envy of the world !
 Lady ! these treasures of the mine
 Proclaim how rich an Empire's thine ;
 And what Britannia's power can gain
 For thee, fair Sovereign of the main !
 View well thy Crown,—it will impart
 A lesson to thy Queenly heart,
 While fancy aids the poet's lay,
 Each emblem jewel to pourtray :—
 Its RUBY, like the deep blush-rose,
 Is England's emblem ; to her foes,
 Saint George's ensign is the red
 And conquering Cross, beheld with dread.
 Prize well the PEARL, so chaste and rare,
 It represents thy subjects fair,
 And in the SAPPHIRE, beaming nigh,
 View *native beauty's* modest eye.
 Next, Lady ! on the EMERALD smile,
 The type of Albion's sister isle ;
 The colour of the laurel, too,
 To Britain's heroes ever due ;
 Whose deeds, while Ocean's waters roll,
 Shall spread her fame from pole to pole.
 The blue ting'd AMETHYST, I ween,
 Beside bright ERIN's gem of green,
 With modest lustre shining forth,
 Bespeaks the THISTLE of the NORTH,

And tells of gallant Highland blades,
 And loyal hearts 'neath SCOTIA's plaids.
 The TOPAZ, jewel of the sun,
 Reminds thee of the trophies won,
 In Eastern colonies, where England's name,
 Is chronicled in deeds of fame !
 The Regal Sovereign of the mine,
 Next claims the bard's recording line,
 The DIAMOND, crystal as the wave,
 That does thy sea-girt empire lave ;—
 Bright and resplendent mid the rest,
 Meet emblem of thy Royal breast,
 Where virtues purest gem is shrined,
 The priceless DIAMOND OF THE MIND !
 Mingling amid this blaze of light,
 The snowy ERMINE meets the sight,
 Fair MERCY's emblem, on thy Crown
 Like Heaven's own dew descending down ;
 There may its dove like influence rest,
 To bid thee bless as thou art blest.
 The silken VELVET's Tyrian dye,
 Perchance may thoughts of *pride* supply ;
 But ah ! the *pressure* on thy brow,
 Despite its gay and outward show,
 Must whisper of the anxious care
 The brow that wears a CROWN must bear !
 And prove to many an envying mind,
 Some burden is to *all* assigned :—
 Oh ! lightly on thy fair young head,
 Be all the cares of Empire shed ;
 May peace and joy in England's bowers,
 Long make thy Crown a wreath of flowers ;
 And Albion's emblem ROSE be seen,
 To borrow fragrance from her Queen.

LESLIE'S PICTURE.

Amongst the Historical records of this National event, perhaps, there is none so interesting as Leslie's faithful and beautiful representation of the Administration of the Sacrament to the Sovereign at the conclusion of the Coronation Service. This exquisite production of modern art, has been thus noticed in a contemporay periodical.* "Nothing can evince a purer taste in the Royal patron, or a sounder judgment in the accomplished artist, than the moment chosen for the subject of this picture—namely, that when the Royal Lady is kneeling at the foot of the holy altar, divested of all the gorgeous insignia of Royalty except the Dalmatic robe, and adorned only in those graces (happily *not* in this case, 'beyond the reach of *Art*,') which ever wait on a holy humility, a deep sincerity of purpose, and a purity and innocence only equalled by the intelligence which is their surest guide and guard. The immediate scene of this exquisite picture in the chapel of Edward the Confessor, and the persons included in it are those, and those only (thirty-eight in number) whose station and official duties placed them in immediate attendance on the Royal person. The consequence of this feature in the happy choice of the subject is, that every individual represented in the picture, claims

* The Court Journal, Nov. 28th 1839.

a peculiar and personal interest in the public eye. When, therefore, it is added that every one of these individuals has sat to the artist by the express command of her Majesty, and that, in fact, the entire production, as well as the engraving that is about to be made from it, are, as it were, emanations of our young and accomplished Queen's individual taste and feeling, an interest and curiosity will doubtless, be created for the work, which probably never before attended any similar production.

The composition and grouping of the piece present one of the most perfect as well as most pleasing examples we are anywhere acquainted with, of that highest achievement of art, the entire concealment of itself—the *ars est celare artem*. All is perfectly natural, simple, and unobtrusive; no one person, or object, or effect, *appears* to predominate over any other, yet each produces its own due and intended impression; while all combine in the most masterly manner to produce not merely one consistent general effect, but precisely the effect desired and desirable to be produced. Superficial observers may wonder at, and perhaps object to, the want of prominence which is given to the illustrious personage who acts the chief part in the gorgeous scene; for in fact, the Queen herself is only remarkable among her noble attendants for the humility and simplicity of her attitude and bearing, and the unadorned and inconspicuous

character of her attire. But this, if we mistake not, is the happiest point in the picture ; for, not to mention that it allows due attention to fall on all the other interesting features of the composition, it must be borne in mind that the scene takes place at the holy altar of that Being before whom all human creatures are equal, and at that precise moment, too, when the chief person of the gorgeous ceremony, is at once entering into a holy communion with her God, and performing a sacred compact with her entire people.

Critically speaking, this picture divides itself into three distinct compartments. The first, on the left of the picture, comprises the Queen herself, kneeling at the altar, while the Archbishop of Canterbury administers the sacrament : with these two principal figures are united, in this compartment; the Rev. Lord John Thynne, who holds the cup ; Lord Willoughby d'Eresby, as Hereditary Lord Chamberlain, holding the crown ; the Duke of Norfolk, as Earl Marshal ; the Marquis of Conyngham, as Lord Chamberlain ; Lord Melbourne, as First Lord of the Treasury, holding the Sword of State ; and the Duke of Wellington, as Lord High Constable. These, with the Bishop of London and the Duke of Sutherland, complete this admirable group, to which an exquisitely impressive and touching effect is given by the singular contrast between the almost childlike appearance and bearing, blended however with every becoming grace and

dignity, of the Queen, and the grave age and solemn character pervading all the rest of the group.

The second and central portion, consists entirely of the female official attendants of her Majesty, with the beautiful Duchess of Sutherland at their head. Nothing can be more exquisitely managed than this department of the picture, and it will probably be deemed the most popular and attractive portion of any, on account of the singular loveliness of the group of unmarried ladies who appear as the trainbearers of her Majesty on 'the occasion,—the Ladies Caroline Lennox, Adelaide Paget, Fanny Cowper, Wilhelmina Stanhope, and Mary Grimston. There is also one exquisite little passage in this department of the picture, which we cannot pass by without notice, on account of the admirable effect, both immediate and collateral, which is produced by it ; we allude to the attitude of the Lady Adelaide Paget, who is represented in the act of shading her eyes with her uplifted hand, from the burst of sunshine which may thus be supposed to have just spread itself over the scene, as a happy omen of the event commemorated.

The third compartment spreads itself over all the centre and right side of the canvass, and is kept in some slight degree subordinate to the other two. It takes in all the other individuals whose rank or official station brought them immediately within this portion of the ceremony, and the immediate locality in which it was enacted. -

With respect to the colouring of this extraordinary picture, we look upon it as a perfect triumph of artistical skill over difficulties that would have baffled the efforts of any hand but that of a consummate master,—*crimson* (as the reader must be aware) occupying at least one half of the entire canvass, and this having to be brought into harmony with the *scarlet* of the military costumes, the *black* of the clerical ones, and the brilliant *white* satin of the majority of the ladies' dresses, &c. The method by which this prevailing *glow* of crimson is balanced in the different parts of the picture, and prevented from degenerating into that *glare* which would inevitably have been the result from any ordinary hand, cannot be too much admired; and the artist and connoisseur will perceive with admiration how important a part is gained in this effect by the introduction (in the right-hand corner of the picture) of the two pages—youthful scions of the houses of Sutherland and Conyngham.

Independently, however, of the undoubted excellence of this picture as a work of art, the portraits of the personages it includes are alone sufficient to excite a very lively interest. The resemblance of the Archbishop of Canterbury is excellent, as are, indeed, those of all the surrounding group with scarcely a single exception. The Duke of Wellington and Viscount Melbourne, are both good likenesses, especially the Duke, whose intelligent features have evidently been studied

with infinite care by the artist. The Princess Augusta, the Princess Augusta of Cambridge, the Duchess of Kent, and the Dukes of Sussex and Cambridge are all perfect. We cannot say that the Duchess of Sutherland, as Mistress of the Robes, is flattered; but the fine commanding person of her grace is too well known to afford room for the smallest doubt as to her identity. The face of the Queen's Sister, the Princess of Hohenlohe, peeping from among a number of others, is particularly handsome.

Upon the whole, then, we must pronounce this picture to be one of the most brilliant and successful efforts of high art that our times have produced: and there cannot be any doubt that the engraving from it which her Majesty has commanded to be made by the first artist in his line in Europe, Mr. Samuel Cousins, will prove one of the most popular works of its class that has ever been executed, and will amply repay the vast outlay which it will entail on the enterprising publisher, Mr. Moon, who has been entrusted by her Majesty with the details of the undertaking. The print is to be engraved on a magnificent scale,—four feet long by two feet high; and it will, we have no doubt, form as noble a monument of British supremacy in that department of art as the original does in one still higher.

The following is a complete list of the portraits that appear in this picture:—

THE QUEEN.

Archbishop of Canterbury; The Rev. Lord John

Thynne ; Lord Willoughby D'Eresby, Hereditary Lord High Chamberlain, holding the crown ; Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal ; Marquis of Conyngham, Lord Chamberlain ; Bishop of London ; Lord Melbourne, First Lord of the Treasury, holding the sword of state ; Duke of Sutherland ; Duke of Wellington, Lord High Constable of England ; Her Royal Highness the Princess Augusta ; Her Royal Highness Princess Augusta of Cambridge ; the Princess Hohenlohe ; the Duchess of Sutherland, Mistress of the Robes ; Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent ; Lady Barham, Lady in Waiting ; Lady Caroline Lennox, Train bearer to the Queen ; Lady Adelaide Paget, ditto ; Lady Fanny Cowper, ditto ; Lady Wilhelmina Stanhope, ditto ; Lady Mary Grimstone, ditto ; the Marquis of Stafford, Page to her Majesty ; the Earl of Mountcharles, ditto ; His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge ; His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex ; Prince Ernest of Phillipstahl ; the Duke of Argyll, Lord Steward ; Lady Mary Pelham, Lady in Waiting on the Princess Augusta ; Hon. Miss Kerr, Lady in Waiting on the Princess Augusta of Cambridge ; Lady Caroline Campbell, ditto on the Duchess of Cambridge ; Viscount Villiers, Lord in Waiting on the Duchess of Cambridge ; Lady Flora Hastings, Lady in Waiting on the Duchess of Kent ; Viscount Morpeth, Lord in Waiting on the Duchess of Kent ; Viscount Emlyn, Lord in Waiting on the Duchess of Gloucester ; Lady Caroline Legge, Lady in

Waiting on the Duchess of Gloucester ; the Duke de Nemours ; His Royal Highness Prince George of Cambridge ; the Duke of Saxe Coburg.

ANECDOTES.

The immediate ceremonies of the coronation were followed by fêtes given by all the principal personages of the country, but more especially at court, where the regal hospitality was extended on the most magnificent scale, not only to the British nobility, but to the illustrious foreigners who had collected in London, to a greater extent than had been known since the visit of the allied Sovereigns of Russia and Prussia. Dinners, concerts, and balls succeeded each other rapidly at Buckingham Palace, the Queen herself forming the life and delight of these high-born assemblies. Her Majesty constantly danced twelve or fourteen quadrilles of an evening, and invariably closed the ball with a country dance. The fashion in which her Majesty's partners are selected on these occasions has been thus described. The Lord Chamberlain, after the invitations have been issued, submits to the Queen a list of all those included in them who are eligible to the honour of her Majesty's hand in the dance, and the Queen makes her own choice amongst them, herself marking the favoured few, in the order in which it is her pleasure to invite them ; when the Lord Chamberlain, previously to the opening of the ball, signifies to each of the noblemen so distin-

guished, that her Majesty does him the honour to command his attendance as her partner in the second, third, or fourth dance.

But it is refreshing to return from this succession of gaieties, and follow the Sovereign of this great empire into the stately and elegant retirement of Windsor, in which she was wont to indulge as soon as circumstances permitted after the celebration of this great national festival. But first let us take a retrospective view of a few weeks, to mark a beautiful instance of domestic and benevolent feeling. Mrs. Louis, the faithful and attached attendant of the late Princess Charlotte of Wales, in whose arms that lamented princess expired, continued her residence at Claremont, high in the confidence of Prince Leopold, during the whole period of the young Queen's infancy and childhood. Delighted to contemplate in this youthful scion of royalty, not only a striking resemblance in features and countenance to her beloved departed nursling, but the opening traits of a noble character in one destined to the same regal career that formed the basis of so many hopes for her, this venerable lady became enthusiastically attached to the Princess, and did not fail to secure for herself a grateful and affectionate return from the innocent heart of childhood. Accordingly, immediately after her accession to the throne, her Majesty invited Mrs. Louis to become a member of her own family, though

without any appointment in the household, and furnished her with convenient apartments in Buckingham Palace, contiguous to her own. Here she was in the spring of 1838, seized with her last illness, during which she was watched over and consoled by the Queen of England, with all the assiduous attention which could have been bestowed by a young lady in the middling classes upon a faithful and affectionate nurse. Previous to the Easter holidays, her Majesty left Town for Windsor Castle, and her last act before entering her carriage was to visit the death-bed of her humble friend, with whom she spent a considerable time in such conversation as drew upon her head the fervent blessings of the dying woman. On quitting this distressing scene, her Majesty, feeling doubtless the improbability of her again meeting the object of her present solicitude in this world, threw herself into a chair in the adjoining apartment, and burst into an agony of tears. When somewhat recovered, she repeated with the earnestness and frequency of real interest her charge to the attendants present, to watch over the comfort of the invalid with the most scrupulous attention, and thus, with a heart ill at ease, took her departure for Windsor. No sooner had her Majesty alighted at the Castle, than throwing off her shawl and bonnet, she proceeded to write with her own hand to her beloved patient. She told of her safe arrival at the Castle, of the charming weather, and exhilarating influence of the country breezes, and closed her

cheerful little note with renewed assurances of affection and interest. This, alas ! was the last act of christian charity that our amiable Queen was permitted to perform to this valued domestic, who expired two days afterwards, surrounded, by the care and bounty of her Sovereign, with every auxiliary to her comfort and convenience. A tablet has been placed in St. Martin's Church, by order of the Queen, commemorative of the services of Mrs. Louis, and the kind friend who tenderly nursed her through her fatal illness has been presented by her Majesty with a very valuable gold watch in testimony of her grateful recollection of her conduct on the melancholy occasion.

A very interesting proof of her exactness in business was given by the Queen at about this period. a nobleman, holding a high office in the household, and who is of a particularly nervous temperament, was one day admitted to an audience to receive his Sovereign's commands upon some subject of state arrangement which was just then upon the tapis. His lordship went through the interview of etiquette to which he was not much accustomed, and having apparently listened with the utmost attention to her Majesty's instructions, respectfully withdrew. About half an hour afterwards, however, the unfortunate gentleman complained to a brother officer in waiting, that his nerves had been in so embarrassed a state during his audience, that he could not

recal to his recollection a single word that had passed between her Majesty and himself, and had not the smallest idea of the nature of the royal commands. In this dilemma, nothing remained to be done but to explain the nature of the case to the Queen, requesting her indulgence ; and this the friend of the mortified nobleman undertook to do. As soon, however, as the matter was opened to her Majesty, she interrupted the speaker with all the quickness of her grandfather, saying, " Yes, I know it, I know it, I could plainly perceive that Lord ——— was not conscious of a word I said. However," added her Majesty, hastily crossing the room to her private escritoire from whence she extracted an autograph sheet closely written, " you may tell his lordship it is of no consequence, as this paper will supply the loss of all that I have said, and he will find in it full directions upon the subject of his audience."

It has before been observed that the Premier has been known to declare that " he would rather have ten kings to manage than one queen ;" and indeed, it is whispered, that a bystander would sometimes look upon a very curious scene, could he be admitted to witness his lordship's interviews with his youthful Sovereign. Her Majesty calmly and cautiously perusing some paper which the silent and very often anxious minister has placed before her for consideration and signature, for without the

one, no document receives the other. The noble Viscount having one day placed an official paper in the Royal hand, he plainly read a mistrustful and dissatisfied expression in the mild but searching eye that scrutinized its contents, and this peculiar look so well understood by the Minister, was followed by a firm and frank declaration of a desire for further information on the subject, before the signature should be attached. His lordship's eloquence was called forth, but there have been occasions when it has had a better effect, even upon a reluctant audience in the House of Lords, than it seemed to have on the acute, watchful, and conscientious mind of his imperial and solitary listener. He said much, but it did not seem all to the purpose. He spoke again, but it was evident that more information was wanting to obtain the desired signature. Again the Minister explained, and again he found his listener perfectly silent, and looking at the paper with a mistrustful and unsatisfied expression. More than half an hour was thus consumed, when the difficulty appearing as great as ever, and the Minister's power of explanation beginning to fail him, he observed that the affair was not pressing, that he had submitted it merely as a thing of course, but that certainly it was not at that moment a matter of paramount importance. "It is with me," was the reply, "a matter of paramount importance whether or not I attach my signature to a document with which I am not tho-

roughly satisfied." There was nothing austere in the tone of this intimation, but it was given with simplicity and decision of manner. It strongly marked the character of its utterer for independent judgment, firmness of mind, and conscientiousness. Nor was it less indicative of frankness and fine sense in the same illustrious Personage, that at the next interview, the document was produced with the royal signature attached, and accompanied with the observation that reflection had overcome every scruple to the desired sanction.

The autumn months succeeding to the coronation season were passed by her Majesty at Windsor in the usual interchange of study, state business, and out of door exercise, particularly in her favourite recreation of horseriding ; and during one of these daily airings, it was that a curious incident occurred reflecting equal credit on both the parties concerned in the transaction. The equerry who was in immediate attendance on her majesty met, in the long walk in Windsor Great Park, his daughters also on horseback, and the Queen having kindly noticed them *en passant*, signed to their father that he was at liberty to converse with them ; he fell back accordingly, and the party remained for some few minutes in earnest conversation. On the return of the equerry to the Royal Party, the following dialogue ensued. " Well, Colonel," said the Queen, "and what had your daughters to say to you so

earnestly this morning?" "Some trifling remarks upon the weather and other such topics, please your Majesty." "Aye, and what of me?" rejoined the royal interrogator. "Your Majesty's good looks, certainly formed a part of our remarks," replied the Colonel. "I confess," said the Queen, "that your daughter's manner of looking at me attracted my attention, and I am very desirous to know what she had to say concerning me." "And I," said her attendant, "must plead the privilege of family intercourse, and intreat your Majesty not to press me farther on the subject." "Nay, but I insist upon it," repeated her Majesty, good humouredly, but with the air of command. "Then, madam, your command shall be frankly obeyed, as I know would best please you; my daughter, after remarking with pleasure upon your Majesty's healthful countenance, and your apparent delight in horsemanship, added, that it would render this agreeable exercise more salutary, as well as wear a more graceful appearance, could you be induced to overcome the small stoop which is habitual to you, and to sit perfectly erect upon your horse." After a moment's consideration, her Majesty smilingly replied, "I felt convinced that I had in some way or other fallen under the young lady's criticism, and was very anxious to profit by her observations; and now, my dear Colonel, I am equally obliged by your daughter's hint, and by your openness in repeating it at my desire, and will show you that I am not unmindful

of either favour." It was remarked with great pleasure by those about the Queen, that she took pains from this time forward to sit very upright on her horse, which indeed was all that was wanting to render her an accomplished rider, possessing as she does, all those attributes which so admirably qualify a lady to become a graceful and skilful horsewoman, moral qualifications as well as physical, for firmness and self-possession, or a power of controlling emotions, are as necessary to the perfect government of a horse, as elegance of shape and lightness of figure are essential to the graceful aspect of the person it bears. Her Majesty also evinces great taste in the style and character of the horse she selects for her use. Generally fourteen or fifteen hands high, her animal is always one of the very highest courage and breeding, well broken in, in the very best condition, of symmetrical figure, ærial bearing, and of the gentlest temper ;— a gentlemanly horse, in fact, one that is conscious of the delicacy and rarity of its charge, and who seems, as he paws the ground, to take a pride in assisting to make her appear to the very best advantage. Her Majesty, indeed, is at heart a horsewoman, and thinks that no lady looks to so much advantage as when seated on her charger.

A VISIT TO WINDSOR.

The visit to Windsor which gave rise to the following characteristic description of our youthful

Sovereign, was paid during the summer now on record, probably, by the reference to this habitual stoop, a short time prior to the above-mentioned occurrence. The writer observes :—" On a recent visit to ' the mighty Babylon,' my inclination led me thence along the Great Western Railroad to Windsor, there to view the domain of ancient kings, and to witness modern royalty, in the novel form of one of the beautiful daughters of Eve. I procured snug quarters at the Star and Garter, on Saturday evening, and on Sunday morning repaired to St. George's Chapel, to hear divine service. No Englishman can enter this beautiful gothic building without being struck with awe and admiration. The most finished specimens of church architecture, finely-painted windows, casting ' a dim religious light,' and tattered banners of departed knights, arrest the attention, whilst the foot of the spectator is treading, at every step, on the ashes of a once puissant prince or monarch. Here repose in silence and in mouldering mausoleums, our Henrys, our Edwards, and our Charleses, and, to come nearer to the present times, the Georges, the late reformed William, and the deeply lamented Princess Charlotte. The service of St. George's Chapel was introduced by a voluntary from the organ, in the midst of which our young Queen Victoria, accompanied by her Mother, her Uncle King Leopold and his Consort, the daughter of Louis-Philip, with the other members of the Court, entered the royal

closet. The chapel was crowded, and many people were compelled to stand throughout the whole service of about three hours duration.

In the afternoon I visited the royal gardens and terrace, where I found a goodly assemblage of people, from various parts of the kingdom, anxious to catch a glimpse of royalty. In a short time Queen Victoria appeared in the midst of her faithful subjects, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, the King and Queen of Belgium, my Lord Melbourne, and a long list of noble lords and gentle dames, forming the court of the virgin Monarch. They passed through the crowd to the slopes, (a beautifully arranged plantation on the eastern side of Windsor Castle), and shortly afterwards returned to the gratification of hundreds who had visited the place to see the Sovereign. As soon as the royal party ascended the steps from the Orangery into the gardens, they passed the place at which I stood. Victoria hung on the arm of her uncle. The moment I saw her I observed to a friend, 'No painter has yet succeeded in giving to us a likeness of the Queen;' and such is really the case. She is low in stature, with a slight stoop in the shoulders, but womanly in appearance. With large, dark blue, expressive eyes, she has a fair and healthy countenance; and very agreeable, though not handsome, features. The face is more oval than is represented in any of the portraits; and her countenance is not childish as many of them would fain make us be-

lieve it to be. The ruddiness of her face appeared to us as that of a young lady who had passed a month at the sea-side, and paid much attention to her ablutions. She was dressed with remarkable plainness,—a light-green silk shawl and white silk bonnet. She passed through the long line of living faces, evidently flattered at the curiosity excited by her appearance, and chatted pleasantly with her royal uncle. She subsequently walked on the eastern terrace, immediately under the royal apartments, in view of the visitors to the gardens ; but free from their interruption : it is about three hundred yards in length, and guarded at each end by a sentinel. On this beautiful promenade her Majesty paced about for nearly an hour, her companions being first, King Leopold, and next, the Premier. The gay and sprightly manner in which the Queen walked, seemed to put the pedestrian powers of Lord Melbourne to the test : with the aid of a stick he contrived to hobble along ; but I fancied I saw in her Majesty a sportive desire to play off a practical quiz on his lordship's disagreeable associate, the gout. Her style of walk is not the creeping, lifeless, ambulation that distinguishes many young ladies who affect to shine among the *haut ton*—she dashes off at a quick buoyant pace, and maintains her movement with a peripatetic animation that would highly please my Lord Brougham, -impelled onwards by a vigorous spirit, and something, as I imagined, like a hoidenish

nature. Whenever the Queen arrived at either end of the Terrace, the sentinel presented arms, and the ladies and gentlemen of the Court formed opposite lines, through which her Majesty passed. In this ceremony the Queen appeared to me to assume an air of dignity almost theatrical, which could not but force a smile from the spectator. In the midst of a jocund laugh, she would suddenly compose her countenance to the utmost gravity, compressing her pretty lips, looking mysteriously towards the ground, and injuring her sweet countenance by knitting her brows.

The following day I had an opportunity of seeing her Majesty on horseback : she sat well on her steed ; but the stoop to which I have referred was more perceptible in her riding habit than in her more primitive dress. She bowed gracefully in acknowledgment of the homage offered to her by the spectators, and seemed proud of the distinction to which she had arrived. Her face shone with good nature, and her eyes beamed with affectionate respect towards all around. She was again accompanied by King Leopold and his graceful queen, who is a beautiful horse-woman, and wore her beaver and feather with remarkable elegance."

THE MACKINTOSH.

Her Majesty in one of her equestrian airings at Windsor, was unexpectedly overtaken by a heavy

shower of rain, when still at some distance from the Castle. A gentleman of the suit, with the romantic chivalry of bygone times, offered her Majesty his mackintosh, as a protection from the tempest ; this her Majesty, laying aside all affectation of etiquette, with the simplicity of genuine dignity, instantly accepted, and wore all the way home. The cloak will no doubt be carefully preserved, and become hereafter as precious to its owner, as that which Sir Walter Raleigh placed in the carriage way for Queen Elizabeth to step upon.

A NEW YEAR'S SONG.

The return of the new year was ushered in by the following loyal effusion :—

Waken, song ! while bright and high
Ancient Winter's bowl is crowned ;
Come, true hearts, his wrath defy,
While a noble pledge goes round.
By our gallant fathers gone,
Here, to guard a Maiden's throne,
Vow we arms of manhood stout,
Hearts, that shall like swords flash out—
If but evil think to stain
With one wrong her gentle reign ;
Come with loud and loving cheer—
Wish our Queen a blithe new year !
Bounteous stars with powerful spell,

For a nation's Hope combine
All the precious gifts which dwell
In the field—the flood—the mine.
Spring, be kind—she loveth flowers—
Cherish hers with sweetest showers;—
Summer, from thy mellowest horn,
Paint her fruits and gild her corn;
Teeming garden—loaded wain,
Symbol forth her prosperous reign;
Earth, and air, and ocean, hear!
Give our Queen a rich new year!
Shield her saints! Old England's crown
Decks her brow—no bauble gay;
All the joys to girlhood known
Left her—'twas but yesterday.
King of kings! her daily trust;
Anchor on the pure and just,
And in visions round her bed
Lead by night the sainted dead;
Thus with Guardian Power ordain
Straight toward heaven her glorious reign.
Guide, and Lord, and Father, hear!
Give our Queen a good new year.

LADY FLORA HASTINGS.

The hopes and wishes so melodiously poured forth in the preceding tribute were, alas! not destined for fulfilment. The young Sovereign having now reigned for a year and a half in the hearts of

her people, her person and her power were no longer novelties ; she gave no promise of any intention of changing her present Ministers, nor of swerving from that course of policy which had distinguished the reign of her immediate predecessor. Those, therefore, who had long been disgusted with whig politics, and whose hopes, raised to the highest pitch by the accession of a youthful Queen, from whom a more than ordinary regard for the prerogatives of the monarchy, and consequent dissent from the principles of whiggism, might naturally have been expected, began to wax faint, and their loyalty (personally at least) in a proportionate degree to cool, were led on by party spirit, from step to step, until every action of the inexperienced Princess became subject to misrepresentation, and every error of judgment harshly attributed to wilful misconduct and impure intentions ;

Who o'er the herd would wish to reign,
Fantastic, fickle, fierce, and vain ;
Vain as the leaf upon the stream,
And fickle as a changeful dream,
Fantastic as a woman's mood,
And fierce as fever's frenzied blood ;
Thou many-headed, monster thing,
Oh ! who would wish to be thy king.

Unfortunately a circumstance occurred in the spring of 1839, which gave a handle to the most

indecent libels on the personal character of the Queen, and caused them to take a deep effect upon the public mind from one end of the empire to the other. The melancholy history of the amiable and lamented Lady Flora Hastings has been so frequently, and in every form of detail and discussion so minutely before the public, that it is unnecessary here to enter into a repetition of the disgusting particulars connected with this painful subject, farther than to relate the mere facts of the case, with the utmost possible brevity. It appears that her ladyship, when in the month of January, 1839, she left the family mansion in Scotland, to enter upon her duties as lady in waiting to her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, was suffering from a diseased state of the liver, which shortly afterwards enlarged to such an extent as considerably to affect her figure, and was by the ladies of the household misconstrued into an advanced state of pregnancy. In this opinion they were most unaccountably supported by Sir James Clarke, the physician to the Queen, and to the Duchess of Kent, who had been called into attendance by the afflicted lady, immediately on her arrival at the Palace. In this state of things her Majesty was advised by those who should have been better qualified to counsel her, to convey to the Lady Flora Hastings, an intimation that before she could be again admitted to the royal presence, it was necessary that she should go through the ordeal of a medical examination, in order that the true state of her

health might be unquestionably ascertained ; and this was accordingly done, without any reference to the opinion or advice of her Majesty's mother, and natural protector under circumstances of so delicate a nature. The noble and persecuted Maiden went through this severe trial with that firmness and resignation which conscious innocence could alone bestow ; the result—an official announcement of the real state of the disease which had led to the cruel accusation, with an unqualified refutation of it—is too well known to require any further remark ; but although her lofty spirit bore the unfortunate patient through the weight of her calamity when it most heavily oppressed her, yet it cannot be doubted but its effect upon her sensitive mind tended greatly to prevent her ultimate recovery, which under more favourable circumstances might have been hoped for ; and added to the exertion and fatigue attendant upon a court life, rendered necessary by the nature of the charges made against her, speedily produced a recurrence of the most dangerous symptoms, and ultimately hurried her to the grave on the 5th of July, 1839, amidst the bursting grief of her relatives, the deep affliction of her royal Mistress, the unfeigned regrets of the country, and it is to be hoped, the heartfelt remorse of those who must be considered in some measure instrumental to the fatal termination of the most disgraceful court intrigue of modern days.

Such is the simple statement of this deplorable

event, but in a work dedicated solely to a correct and impartial memoir of the Queen, it may be allowable to observe, upon the great injustice offered to that illustrious lady, in imputing the blame of the guilty transaction to her,—to her, whose tender years, and the purity of whose education and character should have been a sufficient guarantee against such disloyal and shameless attacks. That the Queen is inexperienced, we all know, that she is high spirited, we all believe, and that the circumstances of this sad case, unhappily give some ground for the opinion that a perfect confidence did not at one time subsist between her Majesty and her excellent Parent, is indeed to be lamented. Had our young Sovereign, with all the frankness of filial love, stated to the Duchess of Kent her views, and repeated to her the advice she had received, and which it is clear she did not understand, how easily could her Royal Highness have opened the eyes of a confiding child to the mischievous tenor of that advice; have placed before her other and more justifiable means of satisfying her mind upon so delicate a point,—a point upon which it is not to be wondered at that she should have been anxious and uneasy, and how much distress of mind would have been saved, not only to the Royal Mother, and Child, but to an illustrious and amiable family—how much odium removed from the conduct of our beloved Queen, and how much guilt spared to those who are indeed responsible for this most flagrant instance of calumny

and persecution. That her Majesty did deeply regret the course she was so unhappily advised to take there is abundant evidence ; that the interview which she solicited and obtained of the much-injured lady upon her death-bed, may have made a beneficial and lasting impression upon her mind, is fervently to be hoped ; that that interview, together with the subsequent death of Lady Flora, did take a deep effect upon her spirits, is well known, for it was several weeks after the latter melancholy event before she resumed her usual good looks and playful demeanour ; that her Majesty will turn to good account the fearful experience derived from this unhappy affair cannot be doubted, and that the court of our matron Queen will be as free from stain of every description as that of the maiden Monarch, would have been, had she followed only the dictates of her own pure and simple mind, is the ardent prayer of every true conservative in the kingdom.

THE CHANGE OF MINISTRY.

Another fruitful subject of discontent, aiming at the Queen's popularity, was the mock resignation of the Ministers, in the month of May last ; but as our object is not politics but amusement, it will be sufficient shortly to state the proceedings which took place upon this subject in both houses of parliament,

leaving it to each individual to make his own comments upon the facts there recorded.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, May 3rd, 1839. The order of the day for going into committee on the Jamaica bill having been moved, Sir Robert Peel opposed the motion, in a very long and elaborate speech, which he concluded by moving that the bill be committed that day six months. A diversity of opinions were given by various members on the subject, and after an adjourned debate on Monday May 6th, the house divided, when there appeared for going into committee, 294, against it, 289, leaving a majority of five only in favour of Ministers.

May 7th. Lord John Russell announced, that in consequence of the vote just mentioned, the Ministers had come to the resolution to resign. He remarked that, "it was evident that, the measure with regard to Jamaica having been opposed by such large numbers in this house, we could not calculate upon the support which was necessary for the settlement of the affairs of Canada, and therefore in continuing our administration, we shall be exposing to jeopardy the colonial empire of this country."

HOUSE OF LORDS, May 7.—Lord Melbourne made a similar avowal, observing, "that the vote upon this occasion was not only fatal to the success of the great measure in question, but that it also did

with sufficient clearness and distinctness, indicate such a want of confidence on the part of a great proportion of that House of Parliament, as to render it absolutely impossible that himself and his colleagues should continue to administer the affairs of her Majesty's government in a manner which could be useful and beneficial to the country."

HOUSE OF COMMONS, May 13.—Sir Robert Peel having received the Queen's permission for the purpose, made a statement of the negotiations relative to the formation of a ministry to which he had recently been a party. He waited upon her Majesty, by command, at two o'clock, on Wednesday the 8th of May. Her Majesty had previously seen the Duke of Wellington, and had invited him to assist in the formation of a government. The Duke had informed her Majesty, that in his opinion, the chief difficulty of a government would be in the House of Commons; and, therefore, partly upon other considerations, but chiefly on that account, the Duke advised her Majesty to send for one who would have the advantage of appearing in the House of Commons as her Majesty's Minister, and at the same time named Sir Robert Peel. At the first interview, the Queen observed to Sir Robert, that she had parted with the Administration which had just resigned, with very great regret; that in all respects her late Ministry had given her entire satisfaction; but that it had become necessary, in

consequence of their resignation, that her Majesty should take some steps for the formation of a new Administration. "I need not," remarked Sir Robert, "enter into a detail ; but I must say, that no one could have expressed more fully, more naturally, or more becomingly, the regret which her Majesty felt at the loss of her late Cabinet ; nor, at the same time, principles more strictly constitutional with respect to the formation of a new government." Sir Robert Peel, on taking leave of the Queen, intimated to her Majesty that he hoped to return with a general arrangement on the following day. He conferred, in the course of Wednesday, with the Duke of Wellington, Lord Lyndhurst, the Earl of Aberdeen, Lord Ellenborough, Lord Stanley, Sir James Graham, Sir Henry Hardinge, and Mr. Goulburn ; and waited upon her Majesty the following day, and submitted those names for her approval. He mentioned to the Queen, that while the Duke of Wellington placed his services entirely at her Majesty's disposal, his own inclinations would rather be gratified if he were permitted to be in the Cabinet, without any office requiring him to take a lead in the House of Lords. Her Majesty expressed a particular wish that the Duke of Wellington should hold some important office. Sir Robert Peel then stated, that it was on Thursday that that difficulty, or misconception arose, which led to his relinquishing his attempt to form an Administration. Her Majesty conceded all that

could be wished or expected, with respect to that part of the Household which is filled by noblemen, or gentlemen holding seats in this House. The difficulty arose with respect to certain portions of that part of the establishment which is filled by ladies. Sir Robert mentioned to the Queen his earnest wish to be enabled, with her Majesty's sanction, so to constitute her household, that her Majesty's confidential servants might have the advantage of a public demonstration of her full support and confidence ; and that at the same time, as far as possible, consistently with that demonstration, each individual appointment in the Household should be entirely acceptable to her Majesty's personal feelings. On the Queen's expressing a desire that the Earl of Liverpool should hold an office in the Household, Sir Robert Peel requested her permission at once to offer to his lordship the office of Lord Steward, or any other he might prefer. Sir Robert Peel then observed, that he should have every wish to apply a similar principle to the chief appointments which are filled by the ladies of her Majesty's Household ; upon which her Majesty was pleased to remark, that she must reserve *the whole* of those appointments ; and that it was her Majesty's pleasure that the whole should continue as at present, without any change. The Duke of Wellington, in the interview to which her Majesty subsequently admitted him, understood also that this was the Queen's determination. Early

on the Friday morning, Sir Robert Peel received the following letter :—

“Buckingham Palace, May 10, 1839.

“The Queen having considered the proposal made to her yesterday, by Sir Robert Peel, to remove the Ladies of her Bed-chamber, cannot consent to adopt a course which she conceives to be contrary to usage, and which is repugnant to her feelings.’”

Sir Robert Peel then immediately wrote to the Queen, stating “his impression with respect to the circumstances which had led to the termination of his attempt to form an administration.”

“And now,” said Sir Robert, “as to the misrepresentations with which I have been publicly assailed. It has been stated that I pressed unwelcome appointments on my Sovereign. Except Lord Liverpool, whom her Majesty suggested, I named but two individuals, and both in the expectation that they would be acceptable to her—the one Lord Ashley, the other Lord Sidney. It is stated that I proposed the dismissal of the Baroness Lehzen. I heard that stated on the evening of Friday, but my answer to the person who informed me of the report was, that this was the first time for the last four years that the name of that lady had occurred to me, and that I never mentioned it to her Majesty. Again, I say, I may have explained myself imperfectly to the Queen, but my intentions having

been fully declared to my friends, to them I can refer for my actual meaning. My resignation was solely because I understood that her Majesty had resolved to retain the whole of the Household, as far as the Ladies were concerned ; and because I felt it impossible for me to conduct the Government without the fullest and most unequivocal proof of the Royal confidence. The state of India, the state of Jamaica, and the state of Canada, would all require my immediate consideration, and would call, perhaps, for some proportion of legislative measures. I should also have had to consider the state of this country ; with insurrection rife in many of its provinces, rendering it necessary, according to the letter recently published by a noble lord, that all the respectable persons in the country should unite in endeavouring to suppress these disturbances. On seeing the present agitated state of the country, I considered that it would be my duty to endeavour to conduct public affairs through the intervention of the present parliament. Notwithstanding the balance of parties in the house, I thought it my duty in the first place to try the present House of Commons. But what is my condition in the present parliament ? I should begin the government with a minority. I should have had to undertake the settlement of the affairs of Jamaica with a minority of five ; and on the question of Ireland, I should have begun with a minority against a majority of twenty-two, who decided in favour of the

the policy of the present Irish government. The principal members of the present Irish government, whose policy was approved of by a majority of this house, were the Marquis of Normanby, and the noble Lord opposite, the Secretary for Ireland, Sir, the two chief offices of the Household, that are filled by ladies are held by the sister of the noble lord; and the wife of the Marquis of Normanby. It has been said, moreover, that in the event of any change in the Government, the Marquis of Normanby is a candidate for the office of prime minister, and the noble lord has been designated as the leader of the House of Lords. If the understanding upon which I was to enter upon office was, that I should encounter all these difficulties, and yet that the ladies of those who preceded me, of those with whom I was to be in daily conflict, were to be in immediate contact with the Queen, and considering the political character given to the Household, that I was to acquiesce in that, I felt there was something still stronger than any personal consideration, and it was this, that although the public would lose nothing by my abandonment, although the public would perhaps lose nothing by my eternal exclusion from power,—yet the public would lose, and I should be abandoning my duty to myself, to the country, and above all to the Queen, if I permitted, as an understanding on my acceptance of office, that the ladies connected with my warmest political opponents should continue to retain office in the

Household—there was something that told me I must not, under such circumstances, undertake the office of Prime Minister of this great country.

Lord John Russell said that the misconception which had existed was not as to facts, but as to principles. There was no material difference as to facts between himself and Sir Robert Peel. The Queen gave Sir Robert Peel full power as to the men of the Household; he sought to apply the principles on which Lord Liverpool was selected to the Ladies also; and on this the entire subject hinged. Her declaration that she wished the whole of her female Household to remain, put an end to all question as to a partial or a total change. Matters having come on Thursday to this stop, her Majesty sent again to Lord Melbourne, and consulted him what answer she should give to Sir Robert Peel, on Friday morning. He called his colleagues together, and they advised her to send the letter just read by Sir Robert Peel. On Sir Robert Peel's resignation," continued Lord John, "her Majesty commanded my attendance. As to the ladies, certainly she had not gathered the precise manner in which he proposed to exercise the power of removal. She asked me whether I thought her justified in the line she had taken; and on my answering that I did, she said she hoped, that as she had supported our administration, we should now be ready to support her. Next day, the former cabinet assembled, and prepared a minute, re-

cording our opinion that the principle of change applies to the officers of the Household having seats in either House, but not to the ladies of the Household." Lord John concluded by saying, that he and his friends having resumed office, and become constitutionally responsible for her Majesty's decision, must now trust to the opinion of Parliament and of the Country.

HOUSE OF LORDS, May 14th.—Viscount Melbourne rose to offer that explanation which was necessary under existing circumstances, having been recalled to the Government by the gracious commands of her Majesty. On Wednesday he had been sent for by the Queen, previous to which time the Duke of Wellington had been with her Majesty. On the Thursday following he was again sent for, and her Majesty stated that Sir Robert Peel had taken the responsibility of forming an administration, but adding, at the same time, that the Right Hon. Gentleman asked that all the Ladies of the Court, all the Ladies about the Royal Person, should be dismissed; such at least was the impression of her Majesty. The Right Hon. Baronet had subsequently said that such was not his intention, and he gave him credit for his assertion. Under these circumstances, and under that impression that the ladies of her Majesty's Household were to be discharged by recommendation of Sir Robert Peel, her Majesty wrote to the Right Hon. Baronet, stating

that she could not comply with that stipulation. The noble Viscount then read the Queen's letter, and proceeded to observe that he and his colleagues so entirely concurred in opinion with her Majesty, as to the change of her Household, or a change of Ministry, that they were determined at all hazards to support her Majesty in her anxiety to retain about her royal person those Ladies of the Court to whose society she had for so long a period been accustomed. He had tendered the most constitutional advice to her Majesty, as he had thought proper, under the novel and peculiar situation in which she was placed. He should never abandon that party to which he had been so long allied. It had been said that it was the disunion of his party which led to the present crises ; no such thing. He resigned office, not because he was abandoned by his supporters, but because there appeared a difference of opinion on a particular question. He had come back to office because he could not abandon his Sovereign in a period of much excitement and difficulty.

The Duke of Wellington said he had one advantage over the noble Viscount, he had served three Sovereigns during a period of fifty years, through evil report and through good report ; he had done his duty regardless of those reports, and hence his advantage. It was perfectly well known that he had long entertained the opinion that the Minister of the country ought to sit in the other

house of parliament ; hence he had recommended a Right Hon. Friend of his (Sir Robt. Peel) to that office. He considered that a Minister of the Crown was entitled to a control over all the appointments of a Queen's Household, and that control became doubly necessary where the officers in every department of the Household had been long in the hands of an opposite party. There was much difference between a queen-consort and a queen-regnant, and the former reign could not be drawn in as a precedent. Had he been the person consulted on the influence or control, he should have acted entirely as the Rt. Hon. Baronet had done. For himself, he would rather suffer any inconvenience, than interfere with the comforts of the Sovereign ; but the step recommended was absolutely demanded by the exigency of the occasion.

VISITS TO THE THEATRES.

The frequency of the Queen's visits to the Theatres, especially the Opera House, were also during this season, a subject of complaint ; yet, surely, when her Majesty's age is remembered, together with her known fondness for music, the attention which various anecdotes related above prove her to be in the habit of giving, during the day, to matters of state importance, rendering the recreation of the evening almost indispensable to

supporting the equilibrium of her spirits, and above all, the comparatively short period of the year in which she indulges in these amusements, spending the larger portion of it in retirement, almost in seclusion, considering her exalted station, it is a matter of surprise that her joining frequently, during the short London season, in the public amusements of the metropolis, and thus affording an opportunity to vast numbers of those classes of her subjects who could not otherwise approach her, of becoming acquainted with her person and manners, should be made the subject of ill-natured cavil. These public appearances were, however, extremely interesting to those who loved to remark upon the alterations which took place from time to time in the countenance and maturing figure of the youthful Queen; and it was at this period very observable that a year and a half of sovereign rule had not been by any means without its effect upon her person. There was now a more fixed expression in her countenance, evidencing the exertion of the intellectual faculties to a greater extent than is usual at so early an age, even in very talented persons; and also, much of that queenly dignity in every gesture, which can only be attained by the actual exercise of the functions of royalty, and that compression of the muscles of the lips, which denotes mental energy, and the action of the will.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE QUEEN'S MARRIAGE.

In a former part of this work it has been stated,* that amidst the various rumours afloat respecting this highly interesting event, the belief had gradually gained ground, especially since her Majesty's accession, that she had actually engaged herself to one of her cousins, of the Protestant branch of the House of Coburg; and the event has justified the remark. The matter, however, was so vaguely surmised, and indeed had been permitted to slumber for so many months, that the public were taken somewhat by surprise, when on the 22nd of August last, the following announcement appeared as the leading article in the *Morning Post* of that day :—

“It is our duty this day to make to the British people an announcement, which they will receive with intense interest; and we hope and believe, with unanimous satisfaction. We have received from a correspondent, resident at the court of Brussels, and enjoying the entire confidence of that court, a communication which enables us to state, in the most distinct and positive terms, that a matrimonial alliance is about to take place between her Britannic Majesty and his Serene Highness the Prince Albert Francis, second son of Ernest, the reigning Duke of Saxe Coburg Gotha.

“The august Prince, whom so high and so auspicious a destiny awaits, will shortly arrive in this country, accompanied by their Majesties the King and Queen of the Belgians. He will

* See Page 440.

arrive, we believe we may venture to say, to depart no more. He will arrive, we ardently hope, to impart new lustre and security to the British Crown, and to constitute the domestic happiness, and sustain the social virtues of the illustrious lady by whom, in the ordination of a gracious Providence, the British Crown is long, we trust, to be worn.

“We venture confidently to predict, that this interesting and important subject will be brought under the notice of the British Parliament early in the next session; and to intimate the probability that the next Session of the British Parliament will be accelerated for the purpose of its consideration.

“It is gratifying to be enabled to state, that the youthful Prince who is about to acquire so strong a claim to the respect and affection of the British people, is acknowledged by all to whom he is personally known, to possess the graces of person and manner, as well as the more valuable and lasting qualities of intellect and disposition, which are calculated to render the respect and affection of a virtuous and intelligent people, an easy and a natural tribute.

“We cannot conclude this announcement without breathing a prayer, in which the whole British nation will fervently unite, that the royal union which is about to take place, may be productive of happiness to our beloved Sovereign, of augmented dignity and security to her throne, and of honour and advantage to her people.”

The “intense interest” which this article was indeed calculated to excite, was, however, much allayed by the unqualified contradiction immediately given to the whole statement by the Ministerial Prints; yet gradually it appeared, that in some re-

spects at least, the oracle of the fashionable world was not mistaken ; for early in October the illustrious young Prince, accompanied by his elder brother, did actually arrive at Windsor Castle ; and during his visit of about six weeks to her Majesty, the attachment of the young couple to each other became a matter of notoriety. On the 13th of November it was rumoured, that Prince Albert spent the whole morning in private conversation with the Queen and her illustrious mother : on the same evening her Majesty wore, for the first time, the portrait of the Prince in miniature, richly set in a bracelet of brilliants ; and on the 14th his Serene Highness, and his brother Prince Ernest, took their departure for Germany.

On the 23rd of November, the whole Privy Council was summoned to attend her Majesty at Buckingham Palace ; and about eighty-five of their number having assembled in the Council-room at half-past one o'clock on that day, the Queen entered the chamber from an ante-room, LadyBarham, the Lady in Waiting attending her to the door. All the Privy Councillors present appeared in naval, military, or official costumes ; the members of the various orders of knighthood, wearing their respective insignia. Her Majesty, having taken her seat, was pleased to make the following gracious declaration :—

“ I have caused you to be assembled at the present time, in order that I may acquaint you with my resolution in a matter

which deeply concerns the welfare of my people, and the happiness of my future life.

“It is my intention to ally myself with the Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha. Deeply impressed with the solemnity of the engagement which I am about to contract, I have not come to this decision without a mature consideration, nor without feelings of strong assurance that, with the blessing of Almighty God, it will at once secure my domestic felicity, and serve the interests of my country.

“I have thought fit to make this resolution known to you at the earliest period, in order that you may be fully apprised of a matter so highly important to me, and to my kingdom, and which I [persuade myself will be most acceptable to all my loving subjects.”

When her Majesty had concluded her declaration, the Marquis of Landsdowne, as President of the Council, addressed a very complimentary speech to her, observing that “he was persuaded the news of her approaching nuptials would diffuse universal joy throughout the realm, and that he begged her gracious permission to make it public. The Queen thereupon, bowed gracefully, and handed to him her speech.

It was observed by those present, that her Majesty appeared to feel the extreme awkwardness of her position, looked unusually pale, and read the declaration of her intended marriage with some trepidation of voice and manner, though she pro-

nounced the words "mature consideration" with much emphasis. She wore on this occasion the brilliant bracelet above mentioned, in which was enclosed the portrait of Prince Albert.

Soon after the Council had broken up, the Queen left town for Windsor, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, and attended by Lady Barham, in a carriage and four, with outriders, escorted by a party of Light Dragoons. Her Majesty was greeted by her assembled subjects, in the most respectful and affectionate manner, and in passing into the Park, by the marble arch, was loudly cheered by the numerous spectators,.

An intimation having been given of her Majesty's intention to visit Drury-Lane Theatre, on the evening of this delicate and interesting announcement, the theatre was in consequence crowded to excess with an anxious audience waiting to hail the appearance of their Sovereign with the enthusiasm excited by the events of the morning; but disappointment ensued. Instead of Drury-Lane, her Majesty was quietly at Windsor, domesticating with her household only; and, indeed, she did not think proper to forego this retirement during the many weeks that elapsed between her auspicious declaration and her marriage. No Christmas festivities were indulged in at the Castle: and the same privacy attended her Majesty's residence in London, for she entertained no court parties, and did not once visit either of the Theatres.

**PEDIGREE OF PRINCE ALBERT OF SAXE-COBURG-
GOTHA.**

The house of Saxony, from which descends the illustrious young Prince, destined it is fondly hoped to be the founder of a long line of British monarchs, derives its pedigree from Wittekind the Great, last king of the Saxons, who with the forces of his own country only, waged a seven years' war with Charlemagne, which ended in his conversion to the Christian religion, and his exchanging the title of king for that of Duke of Saxony. Early in the thirteenth century, Bernard, Count of Ascania, one of his descendants, was raised to the dignity of Elector of Saxony ; his male line becoming extinct in 1422, the electorate was conferred on Frederic the warlike Margrave of Misnia, another descendant of Wittekind ; he was succeeded in 1428 by his eldest son, Frederick the Second, whose two sons, Ernest, and Albert, formed the Ernestine and Albertine branches of the House of Saxony, both of which still continue.

John-Frederick the Magnanimous, grandson of Ernest, the eldest son of Frederick the 2nd, was the firmest and most powerful supporter of the Protestant faith. It was this prince who for many months gave refuge to the persecuted Luther, in the ancient castle of the Duke of Coburg, where that illustrious man drew up that Confession of Protestant Faith

afterwards called from the place where it was accepted and signed, "The Articles of Schmalkalden." In this castle are still preserved many relics of the great reformer,—his inkstand, seat, and writing-table, and his portrait, by Lucas Cranach, are regarded with religious veneration by the reigning family. John-Frederick the Magnanimous, after waging in defence of the protestant cause a long and unfortunate war against the emperor Charles the 5th, lost his electorate, which the emperor conferred on his cousin Maurice, head of the Albertine line, which still reigns in Saxony.

John-William, Duke of Saxe-Gotha, son of the elector, John-Frederick, was succeeded by his son, John, whose eldest son, William, founded the line of Duke of Weimar, now head of the Ernestine Branch and his second son, Ernest the Pious, that of Saxe-Gotha, which was divided by four of his sons, according to the ancient German laws of inheritance, into the four lines of Gotha, Meiningen, Hildburghausen, now Altenburgh, and Saalfeld-Coburg.

John-Ernest, the seventh son, was the founder of the latter house, originally called Saxe-Saalfeld, until, upon obtaining the Principality of Coburg, it assumed the above title; he was succeeded in 1729, by his two sons, of whom Duke Christian-Ernest the eldest, died without issue in 1745, when his half brother, Duke Francis-Josias inherited all his father's possessions. This prince, the great-grand-

father of the present reigning duke, had four sons, the youngest of whom was Frederick-Josias, the celebrated commander of the allied armies at the commencement of the war of the French revolution.

Duke Ernest-Frederick, eldest son of Francis-Josias, had by his consort, Sophia-Antoinetta, daughter of Ferdinand-Albert, Duke of Brunswick Wolfenbüttele, two sons, Lewis the Second, served under his uncle, Frederic Josias, as an Austrian general, and died in the prime of life, at Coburg, in 1806.

Francis, eldest son and successor of Duke Ernest Frederick, was highly distinguished for the qualities both of his head and heart : he was an ardent promoter of the sciences and fine arts, and united in his own person a high accomplishment in them, with sound judgment, liberal policy, and a most amiable, affectionate, and gentle disposition. He married the Princess Augusta-Caroline-Sophia, Princess of Ebersdorf, whose devotion to her husband and large family, all of whom were educated under her eye, rendered her beloved and honoured by all who had the privilege of her association. Nor was she more amiable in her domestic character than firm and patriotic in her public duties, which were put to a severe trial during the arbitrary rule of the great European Despot. The

* For some account of this Princess in her later years, see page 74.

following is a correct account of the issue of the Duke and Duchess, in its present existing state :—

1. Princess Sophia Frederick Caroline Louisa, born Aug. 18, 1778, and died in 1835, having married Count Emanuel Mensdorf, who is also deceased.
2. Princess Antoinetta Ernestina Amelia, born Aug. 28, 1779, and died March 14, 1824, having married in 1798, Duke Alexander Frederick Charles, uncle of the present King of Wurtemberg, born 24th April, 1771 ; died 4th July, 1833.
3. Princess Juliana Henrietta Ulrica, born Sept. 23, 1781 ; married 26th Feb. 1796, the Grand Duke Constantine, of Russia, second son of the Emperor Paul, when she was baptized into the Greek church by the name of Anna Feodorowna. She was divorced from the Grand Duke in 1820, retaining her rank and title of Grand Duchess ; and his Imperial Highness died 27th June, 1831, having married secondly the Princess of Lowics, who is also deceased.
4. Ernest Frederick Anthony Charles Louis, the present reigning Duke of Saxe Coburg Gotha, born Jan. 2, 1784 ; married first, 31st July, 1817, Louisa Dorothea, only daughter of Augustus, late reigning Duke of Saxe Gotha, who died 30th August, 1831 ; and secondly Antoinetta Frederica Augusta Maria Anne, daughter of the late Duke Alexander, of Wurtemberg, born 17th Sept., 1799. The Duke has issue by his first marriage :
 1. Ernest Augustus Charles John Leopold Alexander Edward, hereditary Prince, born 21st June, 1818.
 2. PRINCE ALBERT Francis Augustus Charles Emanuel, born 26th August, 1819 ; married 10th Feb., 1840, to her Majesty Alexandrina VICTORIA, QUEEN OF ENGLAND.

5. Duke Ferdinand George Augustus, born 28th March 1785; married 2nd Jan. 1816, Princess Mary Antoinette Gabriella, only daughter of Francis Joseph, Prince of Kohary, born 2nd July, 1797; he has issue,
 1. Ferdinand Augustus Francis Anthony, King Consort of Portugal, born 29th Oct. 1816; married by proxy, 1st Jan., and in person 9th April, 1836, to Donna Maria da Gloria, Queen of Portugal, born 4th April, 1819.
 2. Prince Augustus Louis Victor, born 13th June, 1818.
 3. Princess Victoria Augusta Antoinetta, born 14th February, 1822.
 4. Prince Leopold Francis Jules, born 31st Jan. 1824.
6. Princess Victoria Mary Louisa, born 17th August, 1786; married 1st Dec. 1803, to Ernich Charles, reigning Prince of Leiningen, who died 4th July, 1814; and secondly, 29th May, 1818, to Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, by whom (who died 23rd Jan. 1820,) she is mother of her Majesty VICTORIA, QUEEN OF ENGLAND. The issue of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent by the Prince of Leiningen, are,
 1. Charles Frederick William Enrick, reigning Prince of Leiningen, born 12th Sept. 1804; married 13th Feb., 1829, Maria, daughter of the late Count Maximilian, of Klebelsberg, born 27th March, 1806, by whom he has issue,
 1. Prince Ernest Leopold Victor Charles Augustus Joseph Ernick, born 9th Nov. 1830.
 2. Prince Edward Frederick Maximilian John, born 5th Jan. 1833.
 2. Princess Anne Feodore Augusta Charlotte Wilhelmina, born 7th Dec. 1807; married 18th Feb. 1828,*

* See Page 109.

Ernest Christian Charles, Prince of Hohenlohe Langenburg, born 7th May, 1794, by whom she has issue,

1. Prince Charles Louis William Leopold, born 25th Oct. 1829.
2. Princess Eliza Adelaide Victoria Amelia Augusta Louisa Jane, born 8th Nov., 1830
3. Prince Herman Ernest Francis Bernard, born 31st August, 1832.
4. Prince Victor Ferdinand Francis Eugene Gustavus Adolphus Constantine Frederick, born 11th Nov. 1833.
5. Princess Adelaide Victoria Amelia Louisa Maria Constance, born 20th July, 1835.
7. Duke Leopold George Frederick, born 16th Dec. 1790; married first, 2d May 1816, Princess Charlotte Augusta, only daughter of King George IV., born 7th Jan. 1796, died 6th Nov. 1817. Elected King of the Belgians and inaugurated at Brussels, 21st July, 1831; married secondly, 9th Aug. 1832, Princess Louisa Maria Theresa Charlotte Isabella, of Orleans, eldest daughter of Louis Philip, King of the French, born 3rd April, 1812. His Majesty has had issue,
 1. Louis Philip Leopold Victor Ernest, Prince Royal of Belgium, born 24th July, 1833; died the 16th May, 1834.*
 2. Leopold Louis Philip Mary Victor, Prince Royal of Belgium, born 9th April, 1835,
 3. Prince Philip Eugene Ferdinand Maria Clement Boudoin Leopold George, born 24th March, 1837.

The political reverses which overtook the house

* See Page 267.

of Saxony, in common with the whole continent of Europe, at the commencement of the nineteenth century, fell with peculiar weight upon the reigning Duke of Coburg, who had previously fallen into a weak state of health, and who retired with his wife and the younger members of his family to the Castle of Saalfeld, in Thuringia, during the march of the French troops through his dominions. This refuge, however, did not avail to protect the unfortunate Prince against the ruthless power of the oppressor; the battle of Saalfeld, the bloody theme of history, occurred during his residence at the Castle, which was stormed and taken, and the gray hairs of its respected but infirm possessor, were hurried in sorrow to the grave. The two elder sons, the hereditary Prince Ernest, and Prince Ferdinand, were both actively engaged in their military duties, and the young Prince Leopold alone remained to solace his afflicted mother in the first hours of her widowhood. But the ravages of the enemy did not stop here; the Principality of Coburg was taken forcible possession of, and the whole country treated with all the rigours of conquest. Ernest, now by the death of his father the reigning Duke, continued throughout this trying period, firmly faithful to the fortunes of his august friend, the King of Prussia, who was the greatest sufferer from the events of the times, and the malignity of the conqueror. He was present with the king at the fatal

battle of Jona, and accompanied him successively to Koningsburg and Memel.

By the treaty of Tilsit, the reigning family of Saxe Coburg were reinstated in their dominions ; but it required a long course of circumspection and prudence on the part of the sovereign, to rescue his little state from the consequences of the difficulties, depression, and poverty in which it had been involved. No sooner did a gleam of hope for the emancipation of their native land arise from the flames of Moscow, and the battle plains of Borodino and Smolensk, than the Princes of the house of Coburg, true to the principles they had never ceased to profess, actively engaged themselves in various ways to promote, to the utmost of their power, this desired consummation. The Duke again shared in the now happier prospects of the King of Prussia ; Prince Ferdinand offered his services to the Emperor Francis, and Prince Leopold hastened to resume his command in the Prussian army, which he had formerly been compelled by the despotism of Buonaparte to resign.

The part which Prince Leopold took in the ensuing war, is well known ; but it is a less notorious fact that, in 1814, while the dismemberment of Saxony was still under discussion, and the king detained a captive in Prussia, the Duke of Coburg delivered to Lord Castlereagh a note, urging in strong terms, the rights of that unfortunate Prince, upon the consideration of the Congress of Vienna.

This note was in the sequel seconded by many distinguished German houses, and by it the Duke acquired the merit of having been the first to express his sentiments in a bold and dignified tone, at a time when fear and self-interest imposed silence upon so many. So conscious, indeed, were the great Powers of the services of this illustrious house, and of the rectitude of the principles upon which its members acted, that by the treaty of the above-mentioned Congress, signed at Vienna in 1815, the possessions of the Duchy of Saxe Coburg Saalfeld were increased nearly one-third; and in the year 1826, a large portion of the dominions of Gotha Altenburg, were annexed to them. By reference to the *Almanac de Gotha*, of the current year, it appears that the territory of which the Duke is the independent sovereign, comprises about 840 English square miles, with a population of nearly 140,000 souls, and a revenue of upwards of £130,000 per annum.

Coburg, the capital of the principality, is not a large town, but the suburbs are very extensive: it has an academical Gymnasium, founded and liberally endowed by Duke John Casimir, in 1605. In 1677, by imperial authority, this Gymnasium was allowed all the rights and privileges of a University. It also boasts the princely castle of Erenburg, is the seat of the upper colleges of Administration belonging to the Ducal house, and contains two public libraries, and a cabinet of natural curio-

sities. In addition to this, the schools, churches, and institutions of Jena, Gotha, and the neighbouring districts, as well as the moral and religious condition of the people, clearly evidence that in these modern times the House of Coburg maintains its ancient reputation, by an enlightened encouragement of arts, literature, and every branch of useful knowledge.

MEMOIR OF PRINCE ALBERT.

In the year 1816, all the brothers of the House of Coburg, the reigning Duke Ernest, Ferdinand, and Leopold, three of the handsomest and most accomplished men amongst the Princes of Europe, formed matrimonial connections with three only daughters, and heiresses of large and wealthy possessions.

The result of the most illustrious of these alliances, the marriage of the youngest, Prince Leopold, with our beloved and lamented Princess, is too familiar to the public to need more than casual mention here. The second brother, Prince Ferdinand, was united to Antoinetta, only daughter of the Prince of Kohary, a very rich Hungarian noble ; and since his succession to the estates, by the death of his father-in-law, has added the title of Kohary to that of his paternal house. He is father of king Ferdinand, Consort of the Queen of Portugal, of

Prince Augustus, who will inherit the Hungarian property, and of the Princess Victoria, the bride elect of the Duc de Nemours, second son of Louis-Philip, king of the French.

The consort of the reigning Duke Ernest, to whom he was betrothed in 1816, and married 31st July, 1817, was Louisa, only child of Augustus, reigning Duke of Saxe-Gotha. This Princess, who is said to have inherited beauty from her father, and wit from her mother, was married at the early age of sixteen; she gave birth in two successive years to the hereditary Prince Ernest, and to Prince Albert Francis Augusta Charles Emanuel, the happy bridegroom of her Majesty, Victoria, Queen of England, who was born 26th August, 1819, and is consequently three months younger than his august consort. Shortly after the birth of this second son, some domestic disagreement led to the separation of the reigning Duke and Duchess. Her Serene Highness withdrew to a castle in the neighbourhood of Altenburg, where she resided in retirement for some years, and died on the 30th of August, 1831. Meanwhile, upon the death of her uncle Frederick, the last Duke of Saxe-Gotha and Altenburg, her husband succeeded to a large portion of the hereditary dominions of that house, by which the revenues of his state were largely increased, and his Serene Highness has since assumed the title of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. At the close of the year, 1832, the Duke was again united in marriage to the Princess Maria,

daughter of the late Duke Alexander of Wurtemberg, by whom he has no issue. His Serene Highness has always been closely connected in friendship with the king of Prussia, as well as with the late king of Saxony, and, as a sovereign, has made himself highly and generally respected throughout Germany, and indeed all Europe. He is much beloved by his own subjects, on whom he has bestowed an excellent constitutional charter; and they now enjoy every legitimate liberty that can be reasonably claimed in monarchical countries.

The early childhood of Prince Albert, was passed with his brother, in the Castle of Chronburg, where the education of both the Princes was carried on with the utmost care, and their progress in all the acquirements suited to their years, was such as to give the highest satisfaction to the Duke, their father. It has been stated that on the death of his mother, the young Prince Albert, then twelve years of age, was placed for a period under the care of the Duchess of Kent, and that he resided for some time at Kensington and Claremont, whence it often happened that himself and the Princess Victoria were instructed by the same masters, were engaged in the same lessons, and even sometimes learnt their tasks from the same book. Thus it naturally followed that the youthful cousins became mutually attached, and it was remarked by those around them, that of all her playmates, Prince Albert possessed the highest place in the

Princess's affection, from the kindness of his manners, and the general amiability of his disposition. There is, however, much reason to doubt the authenticity of this fact, and consequently, of the effect deduced from it. It is the opinion of the writer of these memoirs, who has had much opportunity of observation, that Prince Albert never was in England until he accompanied his father and elder brother on a visit to the Duchess of Kent, at Kensington Palace, in the summer of 1836. We are, however, told by those who assume to be well acquainted with these matters, that on the completion of his father's second marriage, the young Prince was recalled to Germany, and pursued his studies under the immediate superintendence of the Duke.

At the ages of sixteen and seventeen respectively, the Hereditary Prince and Prince Albert were publicly confirmed, with much ceremony, at Coburg, according to the rites of the Lutheran church. The reigning duke caused a medal to be struck commemorating this event, on the obverse of which are the portraits of the two young Princes, encircled with the inscription—"Ernest and Albert Trinzén Von Saxe-Coburg-Gotha," and on the reverse, encircled with a wreath of oak,—"*Confirmt dem 12 April 1835.*"

Of Prince Albert's visit to England in 1836, due mention is made according to its course of time, in the early part of this work, and by reference to

it,* it will be found that in, probably, the highest enjoyment of a public nature, of which the young Prince had then partaken, a visit to St. Paul's Cathedral on the anniversary of the charity children, she was accompanied by her future consort. May not a sympathy of feeling have arisen on this most interesting occasion to strengthen the bonds of esteem and love already mutually engendered in their youthful hearts? On the close of the three happy weeks, pregnant with his future destiny, which Prince Albert passed at this period in the society of his Royal Cousin, he and his brother were placed by the duke, their father, under the watchful care of their uncle, King Leopold, at Brussels, where a private house was taken for them, and an English clergyman of learning and piety engaged as their resident tutor, during the ensuing twelve months. This reverend gentleman speaks of both his illustrious pupils in the highest terms. Of Prince Albert he says, "his attainments are various, his natural abilities superior, his disposition amiable, his conduct unexceptionable, and, above all, his belief in, and his attachment to the protestant religion is sincere, influential, and ardent." Again, it is gratifying to read the following picture of the Prince, drawn four years ago, by one who could not have anticipated his future destiny:—"On our return to the hotel, we found there the young hereditary Prince of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, and his brother,

* See Page 418.

the Prince Albert. They are very interesting young men, with all the German goodness in their faces and manner. Prince Albert is taller than his brother, and very prepossessing; his handsome face, besides the kind expression which is common to both brothers, being brightened with the greatest animation and intelligence."*

In the summer of 1837, the Princes were removed to the university of Bonn on the Rhine, where Prince Albert attended the lectures on the classics, mathematics, mental philosophy, politics, political economy, history, and statistics, and several private teachers attended for his instruction in ornamental accomplishments. The circle with which he held intercourse was select, and indeed chiefly restricted to the families of the professors. At college, his Serene Highness was a universal favourite, from his amiable manners, his spirited conversation, and the propriety of his conduct. The Prince, who has a happy talent for poetry, gave proof of the benevolence of his heart, by publishing at Bonn, for the benefit of the poor, a collection of songs, which were very agreeably set to music by his brother.

It was during the residence of Prince Albert at Bonn that the magnificent and interesting ceremonial of the coronation of "The fair Virgin throned by the West" took place in London. The reigning Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, did not fail to pay his personal respects to his august Niece on this occa-

* Summer in Germany, 1836.

sion, but it was deemed unwise to disturb the studies of the two young Princes, which were proceeding in a highly satisfactory manner, by introducing them to a scene of so much gaiety and excitement ; the idea was therefore entirely relinquished, and the young and elevated couple are said to have acquiesced with cheerfulness in the decision of their elders, although, as may be imagined, the disappointment was deeply felt by both parties. The Duke, her future father-in-law, was, however, received with peculiar distinction by the Queen, who, previous to his departure, invested him with the insignia of the Garter, amidst a full attendance of the Knights of that most noble order, and all the honours attendant on a high court ceremonial.

In the following winter, it was considered that Prince Albert's studies were now sufficiently advanced to permit of his undertaking, with advantage, a tour in Italy, and accordingly in December, 1838, his Serene Highness set out, attended by Baron Stockmar, on this desirable excursion, accompanied as far as Munich by the reigning Duke. His Serene Highness introduced his son to the king of Bavaria, and the illustrious travellers were received by his majesty and his family with the highest honours. They remained several days in the Bavarian capital, devoting their mornings to the inspection of the various literary institutions with which it abounds, and in the evening, accepting the hospitality freely offered them, not only at the Palace, but by the various foreign ministers res-

dent at Munich ; by Lord Erskine, the English ambassador especially they were entertained with a magnificent ball and supper. The remainder of the winter and the ensuing spring were passed by Prince Albert in various parts of Italy, and he finished his tour by a visit to his uncle, Duke Ferdinand of Saxe-Coburg-Kohary at Vienna. The education of the Prince was thus happily completed, and on his return to Coburg, which was hailed with the warmest congratulations, he was presented by his father to the public as an object of his just pride and affection.

His Serene Highness is nearly six feet in height, of a fair complexion, handsome features, the forehead nobly expanding, and giving the notion of intellectual power, eyes of a greyish blue, exceedingly expressive, hair light, plainly parted in front. He wears mustachios, which add much to the manliness of his appearance, and has also whiskers ; the expression of his countenance is peculiarly active, intelligent, and agreeable. He is exceedingly erect in his person, and is said to excel in all the martial exercises, and to be equally *au fait* in the more elegant occupations of the drawing-room, the saloon, and the ball-room. Of a gentle and unassuming demeanour, winning the affections of all around him, ardent in the pursuit of knowledge, distinguished as a poet and a musician, in short, equally accomplished in mind as in person, he is eminently qualified to " grace the Court of maiden Queen,"

and to justify the hope that his intimate connexion with our beloved Sovereign, will, under the blessing of a gracious Providence, confer on her the pure and refined enjoyments of domestic life, without which the splendour of a court, the power of a throne, and even the affectionate loyalty of an empire, leave an aching void in the heart. Brought up in the strict tenets and observances of the Protestant faith, the young Prince comes no stranger into the bosom of the Protestant Church; his religious sympathies, equally with the affections of his heart, will bind him up no less with the interests and feelings of the great community, of which he is about to become one of the first and most distinguished citizens, than they will endear him to that august Sovereign who is the object of their homage and devotion, as of his own.

In anticipation, no doubt, of the high destiny which awaited him, the young Prince was declared of age on the 26th of August, 1839, the day on which he completed his twentieth year, and thus became possessed of the property bequeathed to him by his deceased mother; consisting of estates, the revenues of which amount to £2,400 per annum. After his engagement to the Queen of England had been formally announced, he transferred the estate to his elder brother, subject to certain pensions which he has granted to several persons attached to his household.

Our young Queen, however, with a maturity of

judgment beyond her years, would not suffer this projected alliance to be publicly promulgated until she had enjoyed an opportunity of confirming the opinion she had already conceived of the qualifications of her cousin, and examining the basis of that affection which she had never ceased to entertain for him. Accordingly on the 10th of October 1839, his Serene Highness, with the Hereditary Prince, arrived in England on a visit to her Majesty, who had reason, day by day, to become more and more attached to Prince Albert, and more highly to approve the traits of character which from time to time fell under her acute and discriminating observation. The Prince, in his turn, played the part of a royal lover with all the grace peculiar to his house ; he never willingly absented himself from the Queen's presence, and her every wish was anticipated with the alacrity of unfeigned attachment. At length her Majesty having wholly made up her own mind as to the issue of this visit, found herself in some measure embarrassed as to the means of indicating her preference to the Prince. This was indeed a perplexing task, but the Queen acquitted herself of it with equal delicacy and tact. At one of the palace balls, she took occasion to present Prince Albert with her bouquet, and the hint was not lost on the gallant German. His close uniform, buttoned up to the throat, did not admit of his placing the Persian-like gift where it would be most honoured ; and he immediately drew his

penknife and cut a slit in his dress nearest his heart, where he gracefully deposited the happy omen. Again, to announce the intended union to the Privy Council was an easy duty compared to that of intimating it to the principal party concerned ; and here also, it is said, that our Sovereign Lady displayed unusual presence of mind and female ingenuity. The Prince was expressing the grateful sense he entertained of his reception in England, and the delight he had experienced from the kind attentions shown to him during his stay, when the Queen very naturally put the question upon which their future fates so much depended :—" If indeed your Highness is so much pleased with the country, perhaps you would not object remaining in it ?" Who can doubt the reply ? And thus it is, according to the accounts which descend from the perfumed atmosphere of royalty, even to the lowly haunts of literature, that reigning queens are wooed and wedded.

This great matter being thus decided upon, the remainder of the Prince's visit was busily devoted to a consideration of the arrangements necessary for carrying it into effect ; on the 14th of November, as before stated, the royal guests took their departure from our shores, and on the 23rd, her Majesty made that interesting communication to her Privy Council which diffused such general satisfaction from one end of the empire to the other.

The Prince sailed from Dover in the Firebrand

steamer, accompanied as far as Calais by Lord Alfred Paget, who having seen them safely landed, returned by the same packet, and immediately departed for Windsor, to communicate the intelligence to the Queen. Their Serene Highnesses proceeded direct to Brussels, but staying only a few hours there, hastened on to Wiesbaden, where their uncle, King Leopold was staying for the benefit of his health, and where they were met by the duke, their Father. At Bonn the young Princes were most cordially welcomed by their former fellow students, and the band of the regiment of Hulus, in garrison there, serenaded them during their passage through the town. After several days passed in family enjoyment at Wiesbaden, the parties separated, the King of the Belgians taking his departure for Brussels, and the Duke and his Sons for Coburg.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE INTENDED ROYAL
MARRIAGE AT COBURG.

On the morning of the 8th of December, the Ducal Family and Court attended Divine Service in state, in the Castle Chapel ; and at four in the afternoon of the same day, the ministers, the court, the high functionaries, the deputies of the states, and towns of the duchies of Coburg and Gotha assem-

bled in the throne-room, and the reigning Duke and Duchess, Prince Albert, Duke Ernest of Wirtemberg, and their suite having entered, the first minister read aloud the following proclamation :—

“ By order of his Highness the reigning Duke—

“ His Highness the reigning Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, convinced of the deep interest which his faithful subjects take in all that concerns the Ducal house, has thought fit to assemble round him the deputies and high functionaries, in order to announce to them the approaching marriage of his youngest Son, the Prince Albert, with her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain and Ireland. The very excellent and noble qualities of her majesty are well known, and have given his Highness the firm conviction that this union will, with Divine aid, secure the happiness of his son, who will consecrate all his efforts to his new country ; but who even at a distance from his native land, will ever retain for it the deepest sentiments of love and interest.”

Whilst the minister was reading this proclamation, the canon from the fortress announced the happy event to the people. Their Highnesses then received the congratulations of their Court, and every body seemed to rejoice in the prospect of happiness awaiting the amiable young Prince, who is much and generally beloved.

The following extract of a letter from Coburg will be read with interest.

“ For the last two months the English curiosity

in reference to the family, religion, education, &c., of Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg Gotha, so naturally awakened by an event now no longer doubtful, has given rise to the most ludicrous, the most absurd, and what is more to be regretted, the most false statements that the fertility of the journalists' imagination, and the artful designs of the intriguing could suggest. I take the opportunity of making a communication which may, in some degree, tend to correct these false statements, and which may not be wholly without interest to the English public. Having been honoured in the kindest manner, by the notice of the different members of the reigning family during my residence at Gotha, the moment that I received authentic information of her gracious Majesty's decision, I felt it my duty to hasten to Coburg, and offer my respectful congratulations to the Prince and his family ; and never did duty and inclination harmonise more truly, for I am confident that Europe does not contain a prince possessed in a higher degree of all those sterling virtues, those amiable qualities, and brilliant accomplishments, which must infallibly ensure the happiness of our amiable Sovereign, and secure to her illustrious Consort the universal love and admiration of Great Britain. On my arrival, I was honoured by an invitation to the ducal table, and felt highly gratified in being the first Englishman to present his personal congratulations. The Prince replied in English in the kindest and most unaffected-

ed manner, and with the greatest delicacy and tact commenced an animated description of the literary curiosities that are to be found in the ducal library, and made some allusions to his tour in Italy. At dinner I was fortunate enough to be placed near the Prince, who conversed with the greatest ease on various subjects, with some in German, with others in French, and with me in English. I was delighted to hear the flattering manner in which he spoke of England, and of the pleasure he had experienced during his residence in its capital. Being honoured by several invitations to the Castle, the more I saw of the Prince the more I discovered the extensiveness of his acquirements, the solidity of his understanding, and that amiableness of character which has absolutely rendered him the idol of his countrymen—the more I felt the blessing which our Queen has conferred upon the people in selecting a Prince so worthy of his high and brilliant destiny.

“ On Sunday, December 8th, I was present at the proclamation of the Prince's marriage. About 300 persons were assembled in the ancient Castle of Ehrenberg, from Austria, Prussia, Saxony, Hesse, &c., including deputations from the corporations of Gotha and other towns, who presented addresses of congratulation. I know not when I have seen a more imposing sight. When the minister (Baron de Carlowitz) had read the proclamation, the Duke embraced his Son, and the Duchess next imprinted a kiss upon his forehead, while in every eye might

be read the heartfelt wish that all the parent's fondest, proudest hopes might be fully realized. More than one hundred and sixty persons partook of the hospitalities of the Duke's table in the "Riesen Saal," or "Giant's Hall;" and a more sumptuous or splendid entertainment could not be imagined. The loud and cordial cheers which the health of England's Queen called forth, and which burst out with an enthusiasm that all the forms of etiquette and courtly ceremony could not restrain, were almost too affecting; and when the band struck up "God save the Queen," the tears of joy flowed freely. We must not omit to mention a circumstance characteristic of the Prince. By his order, the people were admitted during the dinner into the "Riesen Saal" to see the assembled company. Peasants from the hills, old and young, walked about without the smallest restraint, to their evident enjoyment; and their hearty exclamations, the blessings they invoked on their beloved Prince and his august parents, were a more eloquent and sterling panegyric than volumes could express. To describe the universal attachment of all classes to the Prince were impossible. I have never heard other than the most enthusiastic praise; not one dissenting voice from one end of Thuringia to the other. If I have remarked the personal beauty of the Prince, the general reply has been, 'Ah, yes!

he is certainly handsome, but so good, he is truly a most amiable Prince, as good as he is handsome.' Persons attached to his suite and the older members of the Court, cannot speak of him without tears, and are quite distressed at the thought of his leaving his native land. With respect to the Prince's religion, I myself have seen and heard convincing proofs of his attachment to the doctrines of the protestant faith, of which his ancestors have ever been the firm supporters. Those who have had the opportunity of knowing the instructors of the Prince will not for an instant credit the absurd and utterly false reports of his attachment to the Roman Catholic church. The Prince's being confirmed by the Rev. Dr. Gensler of Coburg, an enlightened divine of the Lutheran church, and his commonly receiving the sacrament from that gentleman, are sufficiently convincing proofs to the contrary. The Prince and his illustrious family are far removed from all bigotry, either catholic or protestant; and, without any parade or show of religion, attest by their lives and actions, that they are in all essential points, the true followers of their Divine Master. I could with pleasure dwell much longer on this subject, but here it would be misplaced. I shall conclude my brief notice by the expression of a sincere wish that my countrymen may appreciate the Prince's sterling merits as much as they are here prized."

On the 28th of December, the Prince, accom-

panied by his Father, quitted his paternal residence for a short sojourn at Gotha, and as he bade a last adieu to the stately castle of Eluenburg, the abode of his forefathers, and the happy scene of his infancy, the tenderer emotions of his nature, for a moment, almost overwhelmed him. A few days prior to his departure, a ball was given him by the nobles, at which he was received by twelve young ladies attired in white, and wearing fresh-gathered roses. The Philosophic Society gave him a sere-nade, and all classes joined in affectionate expressions of sympathy in their young Prince's feelings on this momentous occasion.

On the 15th of January, Viscount Torrington and the Hon. Colonel Grey, sailed from Dover, in the Fearless steam packet, charged with the honourable mission of investing Prince Albert with the insigna of the Garter, and afterwards escorting his Serene Highness and his suite to England, for which purpose they took out with them three of her Majesty's carriages.

On the 24th, the investiture took place at Gotha, with imposing ceremony. The assemblage of witnesses was numerous, comprising the Grand Ducal Family, all the functionaries of the Court and State, the clergy, and the officers from the Prussian and Saxon garrison of Gotha, Erfurth, Weimar, and Meiningen. After reading a letter from Queen Victoria to the reigning Grand Duke, and another to Prince Albert, Lord Torrington and Colonel

Grey assisted the Grand Duke and the Prince of Leiningen in investing Prince Albert with the several insignia, salvos of artillery being fired in the meanwhile. The splendid garter, which now for the first time encircled his Serene Highness's knee, was a present from the Queen, and had been prepared with extraordinary care by Messrs. Rundell and Bridge. The band was of purple velvet ; the motto of the order, the border and buckle were composed of diamonds, set in the most exquisite taste, the whole forming an ornament in the highest degree brilliant and unique. A grand banquet followed the ceremonial, at which toasts were given in honour of her Britanic Majesty, Prince Albert, and the Grand Ducal family.

On the 25th, there was a grand hunt at Tambach, and on the 28th, Prince Albert left Gotha to proceed to England.

PARLIAMENTARY ENACTMENTS.

On the 16th of January, the Queen opened the present session of parliament in person, and with the usual state. The interesting nature of the communication expected from the throne, caused the house to be even more than usually crowded ; and when

“The Expectancy and Rose of the fair State,”

appeared, throned, jewelled, and crowned at the

head of the noblest assemblage in the world the officers of state around her, the judges of the land before her, and the Peers, spiritual and temporal, in their robes of dignity, ranged along the House on either hand, and behind them a numerous throng of noble ladies, whose beauty was set off by the brilliancy of their attire, while facing the throne stood the Representatives of the People, it is impossible to conceive a scene more striking, splendid, and imposing. Her Majesty communicated her intended marriage to the august assemblage in nearly the same terms in which she had announced it to the Privy Council, but with the addition of a request that the faithful Commons would enable her to provide such an establishment for her future Consort as should appear suitable to the rank of the Prince, and the dignity of the Crown. Her Majesty, on entering the House, looked pale and delicate, but still preserved an expression of firmness. In reading the former portion of her speech, which related to the royal marriage, she was scarcely audible to the House generally, but soon recovered her accustomed self-possession, and read the remainder with that distinctness of utterance for which her Majesty is remarkable; still, however, she appeared to do so with considerable effort, and was evidently relieved when her task was accomplished.

When the House of Lords afterwards met at five clock, the Duke of Somerset moved an Address to

the Throne, which was an echo to the speech, and was seconded by Lord Seaford. The Duke of Wellington commented, in his usual emphatic manner, on the omission from the royal speech of any intimation that Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg was of the protestant faith. His grace admitted the fact as consisting with his own knowledge, but urged that it ought to be formally put forward, and therefore moved that the word "Protestant" be inserted before "Prince" in the Address. This alteration was accordingly adopted, and the address in this amended state was unanimously agreed to. In the course of the debate, the Duke of Cambridge passed a high eulogium upon the young Prince whom her Majesty had honoured with her choice, observing that from his personal acquaintance with his Serene Highness, as well as from what he heard from all quarters, he firmly believed that he would not only greatly contribute to her Majesty's happiness but would also by his conduct render himself extremely popular with the country.

PRINCE ALBERT'S ANNUITY BILL.

On Friday the 24th of January, Lord John Russell moved in the House of Commons, a resolution that "her Majesty may be enabled to grant a sum of £50,000 per annum to Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, on the occasion of his marriage

with her Majesty, to be continued to him in the event of his surviving her Majesty," and on Monday the 27th, after much conversation upon the subject, the sum proposed was, upon the motion of Col. Sibthorpe, reduced to £30,000 per annum, by a majority of 104. With this reduction, the bill brought in by Ministers for granting an annuity to the Prince was passed unanimously by both houses of parliament.

The debates which took place in the House of Commons in the course of passing the bill, elicited the following interesting article upon the subject of the Queen's privy purse, from the columns of the Morning Chronicle:—"In the late discussion on the allowance to Prince Albert, it was stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that "when the civil list was restricted, as regarded the granting of pensions, many claims for allowance and compensation were made to the Crown, which could no longer be supplied from this fund, and it therefore threw some additional burden on the other items, and particularly the privy purse." We think we can give some proofs of the truth of the position of the Chancellor of the Exchequer; which, when they are known, will add to her Majesty's claims on the esteem of her subjects. With respect to the civil list, with one exception, the whole is appropriated to particular services, for which particular officers are responsible, and with which her Majesty cannot interfere. The only sum voted by Parliament for the Queen,

over which her Majesty personally has any control, is the £60,000 for the privy purse. Out of this sum, the Queen pays all the pensions that were granted out of it by George IV., and William IV., considering it more respectful to their memories to do so than to discontinue them, or to transfer them to the Civil List Pension Fund, which is made public by being laid annually before parliament. These pensions range through a variety of circumstances, from that of Mrs. Fox, the widow of Charles James Fox, who receives £500 a year, to the servants of the late Mrs. Jordan, and amount in all to £10,000 per annum. But these are far from being the only claims on the privy purse. Her Majesty, with kind consideration for the children of the late king, soon after her accession to the throne, granted from the privy purse, no less a sum than £7,800 per annum to the Fitz-Clarences. She gave also £3000 per annum to Sir John Conroy, and placed upon it some small pensions which the Duchess of Kent had hitherto paid. In fact, the fixed charities and racing plate, paid annually out of the privy purse, amount to £34,000 per annum; which, subtracted from £60,000, leaves only £26,000 at her Majesty's own disposal. Out of this comparatively small balance, the Queen has given away considerable sums in occasional charities, and has paid the remaining debts of the Duke of Kent, her father, to the amount of £50,000.

THE NATURALIZATION BILL.

A bill for enabling a bill to be brought in for the naturalization of the Prince, having passed through both houses of Parliament, and received the royal assent by commission, on Friday the 24th of Jan., the Lord Chancellor introduced into the Upper House, and read the first time, "A bill for the naturalization of his Serene Highness Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha,"—the concluding close of this bill ran as follows :—

"And be it enacted, that when and so soon as the said marriage shall have been celebrated, it shall be lawful for her Majesty to give to the said Prince Albert, for and during the term of his natural life, such place, precedence, and rank, after her Majesty, in parliament and elsewhere, as her Majesty shall deem fit and proper, any law, statute, or custom to the contrary notwithstanding."

The liberty here granted to the Queen to give his serene highness precedence before our native princes of the house of Brunswick, was objected to by the duke of Wellington, as well as by several other noble lords ; and, after much discussion, and considerable delay, lord Melbourne withdrew the offending clause, and the Naturalization Bill was unanimously passed without it. Since her marriage, however, her Majesty has exerted her un-

doubted privilege, as the fountain of honour, and has officially granted to her consort precedence next to herself.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE ROYAL MARRIAGE.

Meanwhile the most active exertions were used to have all things in readiness for the nuptials. Owing to the number of persons entitled to be present on the occasion, exceeding thirteen hundred, her Majesty at one time doubted whether St. George's Chapel, Windsor, would not afford more ample accommodation than the small chapel belonging to St. James's Palace, and is said to have ordered a communication to be made to the Archbishop of Canterbury upon the subject. The idea of transferring the ceremonial to Windsor was, however, ultimately abandoned, probably in consideration of the privilege which custom has accorded to the metropolis, and workmen were sent into St. James's Palace and Chapel, a fortnight previous to the appointed time, her Majesty condescending to inspect the works several times during their progress.

BRIDECAKES.

Orders were early sent to several of the first con-

fectioners in London to provide an ample supply of wedding cakes. One hundred, of various descriptions and sizes, were appointed for distribution amongst the members of the royal family, the great officers of state and the household, and the foreign ambassadors.

Mr. Gunter, of Berkeley Square, supplied fourteen of this number. One of them, intended for the royal banquet at St. James's Palace on the evening of the auspicious day, was a truly elaborate piece of confectionary architecture. Its shape a cone, cut into terraces rising one above the other in many stories, each proportionably smaller than the former, and altogether admirably adapted to display the innumerable delicate and beautiful ornaments and bonbons with which it was profusely covered. The remaining thirteen were all beautiful specimens of art, and were intended as presents to the princess Sophia, the duchess of Kent, the princess Sophia of Gloucester, the duke of Sussex, viscount Melbourne, the lord chancellor, the marquis of Normanby, home secretary, lord John Russell, colonial secretary, right hon. sir John Cam Hobhouse, the earl of Clarendon, privy seal, lord Holland, chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, right hon. T. B. Macaulay, secretary at war, the earl of Erroll, lord steward.

The number prepared by Mr. Waud, of Bond Street, was eighteen, and it is impossible to speak in too high terms of their chaste and elegant de-

signs. There was no gilding or gingerbread about any of them ; no allegorical nonsense ; no chubby cherubs ; no colours ; no muslin ; no silver leaf ; no white mortar work ; all was naturally and delicately fanciful. The cakes were various, moulded in vases or basket work of the most pleasing shapes, as if Waud had been studying the Etruscan curves ; some embellished with leaves, flowers, and fruit ; others with shells and rock work, waves and ripples, not crowded or confused, but just sufficient to satisfy the eye, and invite attention to investigate the art which produces such charming effects. They had, however, one serious defect—they were too pretty to be eaten. They were pure carved and modelled compositions, and might have been submitted to the Royal Academy for one of its prizes. Some of these were intended for exportation to Lacken, Hanover, Coburg, &c. ; and thirteen of them were presented to her Majesty, the Queen dowager, their Royal Highnesses, the princess Augusta, the duchess of Gloucester, the duchess of Cambridge, the earl of Uxbridge, lord Chamberlain, the earl of Albemarle, master of the horse, the Right Hon. F. T. Baring, chancellor of the exchequer, the marquis of Landsdowne, lord president of the council, viscount Palmerston, secretary of state for the foreign department, the earl of Minto, first lord of the admiralty, the right hon. Henry Labouchere, president of the board of trade, viscount Duncannon, first commissioner of the land revenues, and viscount Morpeth, secretary of state for Ireland.

But the cake prepared for the wedding breakfast at Buckingham Palace, as far exceeded all its rivals, and, indeed, any bride-cake ever seen, in tasteful and appropriate design, as in dimensions. It was more than nine feet in circumference, by sixteen inches deep ; and upon this solid base a fine superstructure was erected. Two pedestals rose from the plateau of the cake, the upper one supporting another plateau, on which stood Britannia gazing upon the royal pair, who were in the act of pledging their vows. At their feet were two turtle doves, emblems of love and purity, and a dog, representing constancy of attachment. A little lower down, Cupid was seen writing in his tablets with a stylus the date, "February 10, 1840." On the same level with Cupid were black pedestals, raised at equal distances, flanking the royal group, and on them other Cupids displaying the heraldic ensigns of England, Scotland, and Ireland, and supporting large medallions upon fantastic shields, with the initials V. A. ; the frieze of each pedestal was beautifully ornamented with arabesques, the lower one with alternate wreaths and Cupids in relievo, the wreaths surrounding the letters V. A. Upon the plateau of the cake were bands and festoons of orange blossom and myrtle entwined with roses, and sprigs of the same were placed loose, one to be given with each slice of the cake. A full border of orange blossoms, roses, and myrtle, was tastefully arranged round the lower portion, and the whole rested on a crinison velvet cloth.

This magnificent cake was placed before the Queen at the *dejeuné*, and was designed and executed in all its parts by Mr. Mawditt, chief confectioner to her Majesty in Buckingham Palace, where it was constructed.

WEDDING DRESSES.

The Queen, with the beneficent consideration she has always evinced for the encouragement of British manufacture, determined that none other should be worn on the bridal occasion. Her own dress was a costly white satin, manufactured in Spitalfields, with a broad flounce of exquisitely beautiful lace, made at Honiton, in Devonshire ; or rather, at the little village of Beer, situated near the sea coast, about ten miles from Honiton. It was executed under the direction of Miss Bidney, a native of the village, who went from London, at the command of her Majesty, for the express purpose of superintending the work. More than two hundred persons were constantly employed upon it from March to November during the past year. These poor women derive a scanty subsistence from making lace, but the trade has latterly so declined, that had it not been for the kind consideration of her Majesty, in ordering this dress, they would have been destitute during the winter. No one can form an idea of the gratitude they express who has not heard it from their own lips.

The lace which formed the flounce of the dress measured four yards, and was three-quarters of a yard in depth, of a rich and exquisitely tasteful pattern, and surpassing any thing of the kind ever executed either in England or in Brussels. So anxious was the manufacturer that her Majesty should have a dress perfectly unique, that after the completion of the lace she destroyed the designs, which had all been drawn expressly for the purpose. The veil, of the same material, was made to correspond, and afforded employment to the poor lace-workers for more than six weeks. It is a yard and a half square.

The *trousseau* was not confided to one *modiste* only, but several will have reason to remember, with pride and pleasure, the wedding of their gracious sovereign. Amongst the dresses, was one of peculiar elegance—a morning robe of British lace, with handsome flounces, worn over white silk, and made in most becoming style. Amongst the bonnets were three, which attracted general admiration. One of them her Majesty wore when she left Buckingham Palace for Windsor after her marriage. It was composed of white terry velvet, with bouquets of marabout, and a deep fall of Brussels point lace. Another is of pale pink satin, richly covered with Brussels point lace, and wreaths of flowers. The third is of celestial blue terry velvet, with one splendid ostrich feather, and trimmed with Brussels point lace.

WEDDING PRESENTS.

The presents prepared for distribution to various parties, as memorials of the Royal Wedding, were numerous, expensive, and tasteful. A variety of portraits of her Majesty and Prince Albert, superbly set in the lids of gold snuff-boxes, were presented to all the foreign Ambassadors ; and the execution of these portraits were entrusted, by the Queen's desire, to four different artists. Messrs. Rundle and Bridge prepared the boxes to receive them.

Mr. Grey's establishment was employed in the construction of all the minor articles of jewellery, as brooches, rings, &c. The bridesmaids, twelve in number, each received a brooch from her Majesty, as a nuptial gift, formed of pure gold, in the form of an eagle, the body being entirely covered with turquoises ; the eyes were rubies, and the beak a diamond. The claws were of richly wrought gold, and resting on pearls of great size and value. The workmanship of these elegant little articles is exceedingly beautiful, and the design was entirely devised by the Royal Bride, who personally gave the most particular directions for their manufacture. Her Majesty also ordered a hundred gold rings, enriched with a medallion of herself, modelled by Mr. Wyon, and highly approved at the palace, for more general distribution on the joyful occasion. This medallion is a striking likeness, in profile, of her

Majesty, less than a quarter of an inch in diameter, and, when viewed through the medium of a powerful magnifying glass, the features are seen, beautifully delineated. The profile is surrounded by the inscription, "Victoria Regina."

Mr. Garrard executed some splendid plate for the table, and it is understood that the Archbishop of Canterbury, and Bishop of London, who officiated at the auspicious ceremony, will receive handsome memorials of this nature. The Sub-dean and Priests of the Chapel Royal, are each to be presented with a superbly bound Bible.

Messrs. Howell and James also received extensive orders. The magnificent garter sent by the Queen, as a present to Prince Albert, has already been described; and her Majesty sat to Mr. Ross jun., for her miniature, to be set in a superbly mounted watch-case, as a further token of affection to the Royal Bridegroom. There was a gift, however, reserved for the wedding day, which, although it fell far short in value of either of these rich offerings, was of far higher intrinsic worth, and will probably be preserved as the most precious memento of this eventful day. It was a small book of Common Prayer, elegantly bound in purple velvet, with the Prince's name, in gold letters, on the outside. This delicately imagined keepsake of his imperial betrothed was carried by his Royal Highness to the altar, and there referred to by him during the performance of the nuptial ceremony.

The duchess of Kent and the royal aunts presented gifts to the bride on this happy occasion. That of the illustrious parent was a bracelet, in the form of a serpent, made entirely of turquoises, with the exception of a diamond collar, and the head, which was also ornamented with brilliants and rubies,

PREPARATIONS FOR POPULAR REJOICINGS.

No sooner was the official notice of the day appointed for the royal marriage made public, than every class of her Majesty's subjects, from one end of the empire to the other, seemed to vie with each other who should be most anxious and zealous in their preparations for rejoicing on this truly national festival. The metropolis, especially, for many days previously, presented a busy scene ; tradesmen of all descriptions being set to work upon some device or other in honour of the day. In every parish the feasting of the poor, and more particularly the charity children, took precedence, as much to the credit of the wealthier inhabitants, it always does on such occasions, of all other preparations ; but rejoicings and amusements in every variety, and for every class, were amply provided for, and articles of dress, commemorative of the happy event, abounded in all the shop windows of the city. Beautiful specimens of English, or pure lily white

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handkerchiefs, scarfs, and ribbons, figured with the crown, the true lover's knot, the rose, thistle, and shamrock, the names, and even some of the former with the portraits of the royal pair, were every where to be seen. Applications were also made to the Lord Mayor to order a general illumination in the city ; but his lordship, it appears, declined to interfere. The following notice was, however, issued on the morning of the 7th of February.

“MARSHALL, MAYOR.

“*Mansion House, February 7, 1840.*

“Whereas, Monday, the 10th day of February instant, is appointed for the solemnization of the marriage of her most gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, the Lord Mayor considers it would be desirable on the part of his fellow citizens, as a mark of dutiful respect to her Majesty, that all business which can possibly be avoided should be suspended on that joyful occasion.

“The Lord Mayor doth hereby give notice that the Guild-hall of the City of London will be closed on that day, and doth recommend to the loyalty of his fellow-citizens the respectful observance of the same.

“By order of the Lord Mayor.

“FRANCIS HOBLER.”

PRINCE ALBERT'S ARRIVAL IN LONDON.

On the 28th of January, as already stated, Prince Albert left Gotha, accompanied by his Father and

Brother, for England, by Eisenach, Cassel, Cologne, Aix-la-Chapelle, and Brussels, and was received at all the principal towns in Germany, with the marked distinction which his high destiny demanded. In Belgium he was treated with all the honours usually accorded to crowned heads. The whole garrison of Brussels were under arms on his arrival; the cavalry went out to meet the illustrious guests, and the infantry lined the streets through which they passed to the Palace.

On Saturday the 2nd of February, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg and the hereditary Prince attended Divine Service with the king at the Chapel of the Palace; but Prince Albert, accompanied by the British Ambassador, and Lady Seymour, Viscount Torrington, the Hon. Colonel Grey, Mr. Waller the Secretary of Legation, Mrs. Waller, and Mr. F. Seymour, attended at the English Chapel in the *Rue du Masee*. Most of the English residents were present at the service, which was performed by the Rev. E. Jenkins, Honorary Chaplain to the King and to the British Embassy.

Early in the morning of the 5th., the Princes quitted Brussels by railroad for Ostend and Calais, intending to embark at the latter place for England. The royal party were received at Ghent, at Bruges, and indeed at all the towns they passed through with the utmost cordiality; they reached Ostend at eleven o'clock in the forenoon, and having taken refreshment and received the congratulations of the

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authorities, set out again for Calais, which place, however, to the great disappointment of the inhabitants, they did not reach till midnight. The next morning they embarked for Dover, and having safely landed on our shores, made their journey to London, amidst the most ardent display of loyalty, on the part both of the authorities of the various places on the road and the public. On the Prince's arrival at Buckingham Palace at four o'clock in the afternoon of Saturday the 8th., he was warmly welcomed by a large concourse of people who had been many hours waiting to receive him, and was conducted to the presence of her Majesty, who, accompanied by the Duchess of Kent, and attended by the great officers of her household, received his Serene Highness and his illustrious relatives, in the state apartments. The greeting between the royal lovers was in the highest degree affectionate. His Serene Highness, was dressed in plain clothes, and appeared to be in excellent health and spirits; he was evidently elated at the cordial manner in which he had been received throughout his journey, and the Queen was equally exhilarated by the safe arrival of the husband of her choice.

The Lord Chancellor came to the Palace, at five, attended by the Clerk of the Crown, his Secretary, Purse and Mace bearer, and having formed a Court, his lordship administered to Prince Albert the oaths of allegiance and supremacy directed to be taken by the act naturalizing the Prince. After his Serene



THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.

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THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.

Highness had taken the oaths, the Lord Chancellor directed them to be enrolled in the High Court of Chancery.

In the course of the evening a dinner party, consisting of thirty, assembled at the Palace, among whom were included a large portion of her Majesty's Household, and of the Ministers of State.

On Sunday morning, the Queen and the Duchess of Kent, Prince Albert, and the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, and Prince Ernest, with the ladies and gentlemen of the royal household in waiting, attended Divine Service in the Palace. The Bishop of London officiated, and the Rev. Mr. Vane, Deputy Clerk of the Closet, was in waiting. In the afternoon, Prince Albert paid his respects to the various members of the Royal Family, accompanied by his father and brother, and attended by Viscount Torrington.

No sooner was it known to the Queen that her august Consort elect was actually on the road to England, than she hastened to announce it her pleasure to confer upon the Prince the title and dignity of Royal Highness, and to appoint him a Field Marshal in the army.

THE WEDDING DAY.

Perhaps no one day within the recollection of the present generation was ever anticipated with more

impatience and delight than the memorable 10th of February, 1840 ; and, indeed, the event which caused so many thousands, or rather myriads of people to congregate on that morning in the vicinity of St. James's and Buckingham Palaces, and the Royal Parks, in spite of the inclement and tempestuous weather, which would have damped the spirits of any popular excitement less ardent and intense, cannot but be viewed with the deepest interest throughout the Queen's dominions. The scene presented in the locality of the royal residence afforded a fair sample of the feeling which on this occasion animated the great mass of the vast population over which the sceptre of Victoria is swayed. The imperial nuptials then about to be celebrated, powerfully recalled to the minds of all, the day—who, indeed, can forget it—that day of hope and promise when the Daughter of a long line of England's monarchs, interesting from her extreme youth, her sex, her innocence, and loveliness, ascended the throne of her ancestors? the throne of a dynasty endeared to the people of England by the recollection of its services in protecting their religion, their liberties, and their national independence, against domestic treason, and foreign hostility? The deep and general sorrow which followed the good king William to the grave, was consoled by the enchanting dawn of a reign commencing under circumstances of such gentle, captivating influence, and, we may even say, of such romantic interest.

When a giant-arm wields the thunders of national power, we have a sublime object to contemplate, and our admiration is not unmixed with awe; but to see the mighty energies of the greatest nation in the world—the nation which struck the colossal power of the Hannibal of modern times to the earth—to see the energies of such a nation swayed by the graceful majesty of a young and delicate girl,—to see all hearts bowing in willing allegiance before her—all tongues joining in the universal burst of ardent and enthusiastic acclamation on her investiture with the diadem and purple of empire;—that is, indeed a spectacle of surpassing interest. It exhibits power in the most beautiful aspect in which it can rule mankind, and marks in the manly homage it receives the triumph of consummate civilization.

Such has been the spectacle which England has presented since the accession of Victoria, with the exception of a passing cloud which the circumstances of this auspicious union were eminently calculated to dispel; in it the common heart of the nation felt that there was simplicity, love, and truth; it was unsullied by any cold trick of state. The choice was not made in heartless policy. It was not a contrivance to saddle the nation with the burthen of debts. It dissolved no previous ties. It was a union of young hearts, such as God and man delight to bless. Under the influence of such convictions, combined with chivalric recollections of the “Maiden reign,” it is not to be wondered at

that this interesting day was hailed by countless thousands of loyal hearts, with an excitement only to be equalled on an occasion of similar domestic festival. The old discoursed of the virgin Sovereign about to become a wife, with the same love with which they would have spoken of their daughters, while the young of both sexes talked of her with as much interest and as much tremulous anxiety for her happiness as though the nuptials of a dear sister were in question. The spontaneous impulse of every generous heart was a fervent prayer to heaven, that in the social circle of her palace, our beloved Queen may enjoy, what the splendour of empire cannot give, that calm content and settled satisfaction the marriage union can alone impart, when love forms the bond, and sympathy has previously made the contracting parties one ; and that the royal pair, in the intimate, endearing, and unchangeable relation in which they now stand to each other, may shine from their lofty pinnacle of power, splendid examples of all the domestic graces and virtues which can contribute to the felicity of the wedded state. Such aspirations acquire in the mind of the reflecting patriot additional strength, when he considers the influence which the domestic life of the Sovereign, and especially of a Queen Regnant, cannot fail to possess upon the character, and may, probably, exert also upon the most important interests of the community. The Prince whom our beloved Sovereign has honoured with

the warm affections of her guileless nature, seems formed for that companionship which the heart of a British Queen, in the present circumstances of the British empire, must needs require, for aid in its arduous task. In fondly cherishing her love, and in supporting her in all her efforts for the public weal, he will earn, and be secure of receiving the fervent tribute of a people's gratitude. The qualities ascribed to him by those best fitted to judge, qualities, amiable yet decisive, thoughtful and tasteful, are full of promise and encouragement. May they receive new strength in the more exalted sphere in which he is now about to act, strength proportioned to the greater importance of the duties he will now have to discharge, and the stronger excitements and allurements by which he will be surrounded. And may his august Consort be ever adorned, to borrow the beautiful and expressive language of that interesting ritual in which her Majesty has so recently taken the most conspicuous share "with the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit;" may the proud consciousness of power in her be always tempered by the gentleness and delicacy which impart the most attractive grace and the truest dignity to the female character. Thus will the felicity of the royal pair be permanently established, and shine forth the noblest gem in the regal diadem, the pride and glory of our country, when the excitement and exhilaration of the present moment of joyfulness and hope shall have long since passed into oblivion.

It was known, and was a source of the highest gratification in London in the course of the preceding week, that the marriage would be celebrated at noon, instead of an advanced hour of the evening, as was heretofore the custom with respect to royal marriages. The knowledge of this fact caused all ranks of people in the metropolis to rise before dawn, some to prepare for taking their stations on the line of progress towards the approaching ceremony, but the greater part of the multitude, of course, to attempt, as an ample reward of their exertions, to procure a momentary glimpse of the Queen and her husband, or even of the procession going or returning. The morning had only dawned when flags were hoisted on the various towers of London, and when the bells of the principal churches sent forth their joyous peals, to usher in the auspicious day, which was to unite the gentle Ruler, of these realms with the young Prince of her choice, and of the nation's hopes. Unfortunately Aurora was not in her gentlest mood, and came forth to meet her sister Queen, not in smiles of gladness, but in lowering frowns of sullen envy. Showers both thick and fast fell down, and scarce a ray of expectation gleamed over the sulky day. But, however successful had been the deluge upon the temper of the "firm earth,"—changing it to unfathomable mud—it entirely failed in damping, in the slightest degree, either the curiosity or the loyalty of the good folks of the metropolis. Never did St.

James's Park present such an extraordinary display, never was such an immense multitude assembled there since the rejoicings at the visit of the Allied Sovereigns. At six o'clock, the Mall and the entrance to the Palace were already thronged with crowds of anxious gazers and well-dressed persons of both sexes, filled the places for viewing the pageant of the day; and although the Commissioners of Police had issued orders that no standings should be fixed in the Park, and had placed constables at the different entrances to prevent the admission of materials for erecting them, tables, and planks, and benches found their way over the railing of the Green Park, and in despite of authority, dared to show their heads. The standings were no sooner raised than they were occupied by ladies and gentlemen, willing to "pay for their peep," in order to secure better accommodation.

At eight o'clock a large body of police from all the divisions of the metropolitan police force mustered in the Mall, and were there stationed along the line from Buckingham Palace to the interior of the Chapel at St. James's. Two field trains of the Royal Artillery, from Woolwich, each consisting of four guns, also arrived, and were stationed inside the Park, for the purpose of firing salutes as her Majesty proceeded from the Palace to St. James's. The line was kept by the Life Guards and Dragoons, and a clear space was preserved down the centre of the Mall for the passage of the *cortège*.

The royal standard was hoisted upon the marble arch at nine o'clock. The rain now fell very heavily, yet the assemblage increased every moment, and when it ceased at about eleven o'clock, multitudinous living torrents rushed in from all the avenues, filling the space between the two palaces like a tumultuous sea—not, indeed, boiling and lashing in rage, but rolling and tossing in playfulness and wanton gaiety. The concourse of females was prodigious. It seemed as if every individual of her Majesty's sex, from the infant in arms to the decrepit matron, now far advanced in second childhood, had made a vow not to stay at home. Women who could not see their way without spectacles, nor walk it without crutches, were to be seen anxiously struggling for precedence at every point of the Park whence a glance at the Queen and Prince might be obtained, and having once attained an eligible spot, they held fast by it, heedless of the too frequent probabilities of being crushed or trodden to death. The trees, the lamp-posts, and the spikes of the railings, were contended for with eager emulation, and it was matter of wonder how many could descend in safety from their dangerous eminences. St. James's Park was now completely filled with a vast miscellaneous curious multitude, not a tithe of whom, unfortunately, could see even the carriage of the Queen when it did at length pass. Up to eleven o'clock there was little indication of military display beyond the guns prepared

for firing a royal salute on the Horse Guards' parade, but the attention of the crowds was kept alive by the constant passage of the splendid equipages of the royal family, foreign ministers, and nobility—many of them new for the occasion—proceeding to their respective destinations, and leading to all sorts of surmises and speculations as to the parties within, whose full dress costumes gave a pleasing brilliancy to their appearance, while the well-drenched liveries of their servants could not but produce a general feeling of regret. The routes for the carriages approaching St. James's Palace, were all systematically pointed out, and although some little confusion and inconvenience was experienced, upon the whole all worked admirably. At eleven o'clock, detachments of the Horse Guards (blue), with their bands playing, took up their positions in front of Buckingham-house, where a strong guard of honour halted, while their comrades lined the Mall at short intervals in double files, thereby assisting the police in preserving the central avenue clear. Another portion of the same regiment formed in front of St. James's Palace, at the bottom of St. James's Street, keeping a clear and uninterrupted area for the approach of the carriages.

INTERIOR OF ST. JAMES'S PALACE.

As early as nine o'clock the persons to whom tickets of admission had been granted, to view the progress of the ceremony, either in the Palace of St. James, or the Chapel adjoining, began to arrive, obtaining entrance, according to directions on the back of those tickets at different doors, the tickets themselves being red, green, blue, or some other colour, to render them more distinguishable. Proper ushers were appointed to conduct them to their seats and to prevent confusion. All were dressed in full dress—the gentlemen in court costume or uniforms, and the ladies without trains, but decorated with a profusion of diamonds and other brilliant articles of jewellery. Plumes being forbidden, the hair was more generally dressed in good taste, and perhaps never did the youth and beauty of the court of England show to more advantage.

QUEEN ANNE'S DRAWING-ROOM, which immediately adjoins the ante-room next the Throne-room, was filled up with six rows of seats, amphitheatrically placed, and extending from the folding doors of the ante-room, in a sort of semi-circle form, to the door of the guard-chamber—having in front a wide open space, over which the procession to the chapel was to pass. The seats, stuffed with horse-hair, were covered with crimson

cloth, trimmed with yellow borders and fringe, and the whole floor was covered' by a rich Brussels carpet, corresponding in hue. The general appearance of this chamber was particularly elegant, its decorations, including the portrait of queen Anne, and other paintings, with the rich crimson drapery of the windows remained unaltered ; and when the seats were filled as they were, with persons of the first distinction, the *coup d'œil* was particularly striking and imposing. Among those present were the Countess of Jersey, Viscount Villiers, the Countess of Verulam, Viscount and Viscountess Mahon, Lady and Miss Peel, Lady Fitzroy Somerset, Lady Georgiana Bathurst, Earl de Lawarr, the Earl of Sheffield, the Lords Lennox, Lord and Lady Dover, Lady Theresa Lister, Hon. C. C. Cavendish, Lord Ossulston, Lord Edward Howard, Baron Lebzelter, and several Attaches to the foreign Embassies, in their respective costumes.

THE GUARD-ROOM.—Next to Queen Anne's drawing-room was the Guard-chamber, which is covered with ancient tapestry. Here, on the side opposite the window, four seats were erected similar to those already described, the rich Brussels carpet continuing throughout. The room is of an oblong shape, and led into

THE ARMOURY—a room of about the same size and construction, the walls of which are covered

with pistols, pikes, swords, and coats of mail fancifully disposed. Here a succession of three seats were raised.

THE STAIRCASE was next reached. This, it may be recollected, embraces two flights of stairs, with a division in the centre. The first is the grand or public staircase, used on drawing-room days, to which admission is gained by a long passage opening into the court opposite the German Chapel, next Marlborough-house, and the second is the private staircase, coming from the entree door, by which the members of the Royal Family, or ambassadors obtain admission upon state days, and which leads into a corridor supported by well-proportioned pillars. The entree door is in the Kitchen-yard. It was down the former the procession had to proceed—the crimson carpet covering still continued. On the right of the staircase, at the top, in a recess leading to a larger portion of the armoury, four seats were erected; but the main convenience here afforded was in the construction of a very large box, or gallery, in the centre, between the two staircases, from whence an admirable view of the procession as it came from and returned to the Throne-room was afforded; and here, as in all other seats, was congregated a brilliant array of beauty and fashion, who obtained admission by the *entree* into the corridor, and so by a convenient staircase to their seats. By the *entree*, also, the

ambassadors and their ladies, and some other persons provided with tickets, obtained admission.

After passing down this staircase, on turning to the left, a passage opened directly into

THE CORRIDOR OF THE CHAPEL. Here, again, the ingenuity of the architects in constructing seats was executed with advantage, a temporary structure having been erected over the colour-yard, flanking the line of procession on the side and in front, and from this there was a new door opened to the chapel. This building was well lit from lanterns in the ceiling, or from windows at the back, and with the exception of the seats which were covered *en suite* with the rest of the interior, it had the appearance of solid masonry. The entrance to this portion of the building was from the great gate of the palace opposite St. James's Street. All the seats were filled, but not to inconvenience, and as tickets were not admitted after eleven o'clock, soon after that hour, the spectacle throughout was extremely magnificent. It were a matter of impossibility to enter upon an attempt to give any thing like a minute detail of the attire either of the one sex or the other, for it comprised every known colour, and embraced every description of style of make. The most conspicuous dresses were of light blue relieved with white, light green also intermingled with white, amber, crimson, purple, fawn, stone, and a considerable number of white robes only. Every lady exhibited a wedding

favour, some of them were admirable specimens of a refined taste. They were of all sizes, many of white satin ribands, tied up into bows, and mixed with layers of rich silver lace, others merely of riband intermixed with sprigs of orange flower blossom, whilst were here and there to be seen bouquets of huge dimensions of riband and massive silver bullion, having in their centre what might almost be termed a branch of orange blossoms.

THE THRONE ROOM.—While those who merely came as spectators were thus taking their places, Sir William Woods, Mr. Albert Woods, and other officers of the Heralds' College were making the necessary arrangements for marshalling the procession hereafter described as passing from the Throne-room, the members of which as they were conducted to their destination afforded sufficient food for observation and admiration. The throne is at the upper end of the room, while over the chimney-piece is the portrait of George IV., and on the left, paintings of the battles of Waterloo and Vemeira. The furniture is gorgeous in the extreme, although somewhat faded, from its antiquity. In

THE ANTE-ROOM, next the Throne-room, folding doors separating the two, due care was taken to prepare for the arrival of Prince Albert, who according to the programme was to be first conducted to the Chapel. In this room are the portraits of Geo. III.,

the Prince of Wales, and the Duke of York, Admiral Nelson, and Admiral Duncan.

Her Majesty's Gentlemen at Arms lined the side of Queen Anne's Room, opposite the temporary erection, and were also in the Ante-room or Presence-chamber, commanded by their Lieutenant, the Hon. Edward Butler, while the Yeoman of the Guard, in their full state liveries and halberts, were in the Guard-chamber with their respective officers.

THE CHAPEL.

The principal entrance to the Chapel Royal were from the Ambassadors' Court and the Colour Quadrangle, opposite St. James's Street. The interior is oblong, standing east and west, about 62 feet in length, and 25 in breadth. At the upper or northern end is the communion table, and at the lower end, abutting over the main entrance, is the royal gallery or closet. Two galleries supported by cast-iron pillars stretched north and south the entire length of the chapel. On the floor were the pews set apart for the chief nobility and those who took a part in the procession. The galleries, east and west, from both sides of the altar to the royal closet, were occupied—the upper end, on the right, by the Cabinet Ministers, and their ladies, on the left, by the ladies and officers of her Majesty's household. Below the choir, on the right, and in the galleries opposite, were seats fitted up for the accommodation of peers, peeresses, and other dis-

tinguished spectators. The royal closet was assigned to the Ambassadors and their ladies, five seats, elevated one above the other, having been erected for their accommodation. The whole of the seats in the chapel were stuffed, covered with crimson cloth, and elegantly ornamented with gold fringe. On the communion table was displayed a vast quantity of golden plate, including six salvers, one of gigantic dimensions, two ponderous and rich vases, four flagons, four communion cups, and two lofty and magnificent candelabra. The cornic above the altar, of beautifully carved oak, was richly gilt, superb crimson velvet drapery depending from it in graceful folds from the communion table. Within the railing, which was also covered with crimson velvet, stools were placed on the right of the altar for the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, and on the left, for the Bishop of London, Dean of the Chapel Royal. In front of the communion table were placed four chairs of state, gilt, and covered with crimson silk velvet, each of different construction, and varying in elevation, according to the dignity of their intended occupants. The highest, largest in size, and most costly in workmanship, was of course appropriated to her Majesty, and was placed somewhat to the right of the centre; that on the opposite side, immediately on her Majesty's right hand, being set apart for his Royal Highness Prince Albert. Before these chairs, which were placed about six feet

outside of the rail, footstools were set of corresponding structure and decoration. There were also faldstools for her Majesty and Prince Albert, on which to kneel at the altar. On her Majesty's left, a chair was placed for the Duchess of Kent; and at the opposite side, on Prince Albert's right, one for the Queen Dowager. On her Majesty's extreme left, were seats for their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Sussex and Cambridge; and on Prince Albert's extreme right for his Serene Highness the reigning Duke of Saxe-Coburg, the hereditary Duke, and their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge, Prince George of Cambridge, Princess Augusta and Princess Mary of Cambridge. The floor of the Chapel was covered with rich purple and gold carpeting, the prominent figure being a Norman rose. The *tout ensemble*, both as concerns the extension, decoration, and entire 'arrangements of the interior, completely harmonized with the original design and structure of the Chapel; simplicity and elegance, not show or gaudiness, being the uniform characteristic. The doors of the Chapel were allowed to remain open two hours, and during that interval the arrival of Peers and Peeresses was continuous, and tended much to relieve the tedium which might otherwise have been felt. In the Ambassadors' gallery, facing the altar, among the first arrivals were the American Minister, and Mrs. Stevenson, the Turkish Ambassador, the Princess Esterhazy, Mr. and Mrs. Van der Weyer, Count

and Countess Bjornstierna, the Swedish Ambassador, Count Sebastiani, the Greek Minister ; and before the doors were closed, almost all the representatives of the foreign powers were present, and presented a magnificently brilliant display of diamonds, stars, and decorations.

At ten o'clock, one of the bands marching into the Palace-yard, passed the Chapel window playing "Haste to the Wedding," which afforded much merriment to the ladies ; and at that moment the Archbishop of Canterbury entered the chapel by a private passage, and proceeded up to the altar ; the Bishop of London followed soon after.

The first of the distinguished parties who had seats appropriated to them among the peers was his Grace the Duke of Sutherland and two beautiful young girls, his daughters, who wore green wreaths of flowers on their heads, otherwise unornamented ; the seats to which they were shown was that immediately adjoining the *haut pas* to the left, close by the wall ; and in the same pew sat the Duke of Devonshire, his shoulders decorated with magnificent nuptial favours ; the duke of Bedford, the Duchess of Hamilton, the Marquisses of Westminster and Anglesey, and the Duke of Wellington, who also wore long bows of white satin ribbon, his Waterloo medal, and carried his Field-Marshal baton. His grace became an object of much curiosity and interest to those assembled in the Chapel as he was ushered to his seat, which,

by the courtesy of the other dukes present, was the one nearest the altar. The Baroness Lehzen sat at the extreme end of the east gallery, which was appropriated to the Household. The pews in the body of the Chapel were left vacant to be occupied by the Cabinet Ministers and the officers who assisted in the procession.

All those distinguished personages who had any official connexion with the approaching great event were at their posts at an early hour. The Lord Bishop of London, who is Dean of the Chapel Royal, was present at eight o'clock, personally presiding over the interior arrangements. The Chapel began to fill at nine o'clock; by eleven it was crowded, and at this hour, the Choir, under the direction of Sir George Smart, who presided at the organ, took their seats in the organ gallery. After half-past eleven, none but the leading personages interested in the occasion were admitted. At this time the area of the Chapel, though confined, presented a *coup d'œil* of exquisite grandeur and effect. Many tasteful judges thought the spectacle here was more interesting than that of the Abbey, at the Coronation, for the spectator, without being fatigued by surveying an almost interminable succession of splendid figures, could, within a small compass, take in a selection of colours and objects best calculated to please the eye and impress the senses.

About half-past eleven, Sir Augustus Clifford, the Usher of the Black Rod, entered, and soon after

some of the Heralds, in their gorgeous tabards, gave evidence of the coming presence of royalty.

The Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Bishop of London now took their seats within the altar, as did the Sub-dean and Priests of the Chapel Royal on either side of the chapel, in two front pews next to the altar.

Her Majesty the Queen Dowager came in state attended by her suite in three carriages ; she entered the Chapel at a few minutes before twelve, through the Dean's Vestry-door, and took her seat in the chair allotted to her, which was next to that of Prince Albert, on the left of the altar. The company all rose on her Majesty's entrance, and the Queen, after performing her private devotions, perceiving the most Rev. Prelates still standing, sent Lord Howe, who was in waiting, to desire that they might take their seats. Her Majesty looked exceedingly well ; she was attired in a dress of English lace, with a rich deep flounce, over white satin ; the body and sleeves trimmed with the same material. The train, borne by two pages of honour, was of rich violet velvet, lined with white satin, and trimmed with ermine. Her Majesty wore a diamond necklace and earrings. Her head-dress consisted of a remarkably small, neat, purple cap, and ostrich feathers, with a little band of brilliants across the forehead, and aigrettes at each end.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

Within this royal residence, during the morning, all was bustle and excitement ; the scene was one constant, ever-moving panorama, occasioned by the arrival and departure of the parties who were to take part in the proceedings of the day, or of the several hundreds of the spectators who were admitted to the Grand Hall and Staircase, to witness the departure of the Queen and Prince, for St. James's Palace. About ten o'clock, this company, all in full dress, and many with favours and white flowers, began to arrive at the Pimlico entrance of the Palace, and ranged themselves round the Hall and up the Staircase, where they had excellent positions for seeing the illustrious individuals as they descended to their carriages.

The Queen and Prince Albert remained in their private apartments while every requisite arrangement was making in the state rooms, during which time the band of the Horse Guards without, continued to play lively airs, and the standard of England was seen floating triumphantly over the marble arch.

The Officers of the Household and the attendants of her Majesty also began to arrive at Buckingham Palace about half-past ten o'clock. The Earl of Errol, the Earl of Uxbridge, the Earl of Belfast, the

Earl of Surrey, the Earl of Albemarle, Colonel Cavendish, Lord Alfred Paget, Sir George Anson, the Lords in Waiting ; Ladies in Waiting, Maids of Honour, Bedchamber Women, Gentlemen Ushers, &c., were all assembled at eleven o'clock. After some little time had elapsed, the Ladies of her Majesty's suite were summoned by the Master of the Horse, and handed into four of the royal carriages by Colonel Cavendish, Clerk Marshal, and Lord Alfred Paget, and dispatched to St. James's Palace.

At half-past eleven, the six gentlemen composing the foreign suites of his Royal Highness Prince Albert, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and Prince Ernest, mustered in the Grand Hall. They appeared in dark blue or green uniforms, and three of them took their departure in a royal carriage for St. James's, accompanied by two gentlemen ushers of the Queen's household, to be in readiness to receive Prince Albert.

DEPARTURE OF THE BRIDEGROOM.

At a quarter to twelve, the royal carriages having returned, notice was given to the royal Bridegroom that all was in readiness for his departure. The Prince immediately quitted the private apartments of the Palace, and passed through the state rooms, into which a very few spectators were ad-

mitted. At this moment the word "Sharp," (which is at court the usual intimation that members of the Royal Family are at hand) was heard on the grand staircase, and it was immediately understood that his Royal Highness was about to leave Buckingham Palace for St. James's. In a few seconds, the Prince appeared, accompanied by his own attendants, and the chief Officers of her Majesty's Household. The spectacle now presented to his Royal Highness must have been highly interesting to him for he saw on both sides of the royal Staircase and round the Grand Hall, large numbers of ladies and gentlemen with their children, all splendidly dressed, and with very few exceptions, wearing bridal favours, some composed of silver, and a few having worked in them the initials of the royal Bride and Bridegroom. His Royal Highness was dressed in the uniform of a British Field Marshal, and wore no other decoration than the insignia of the Order of the Garter, viz., the collar with the George appended, set in precious stones, the star of the order set in diamonds, and the garter itself, embroidered in diamonds, round his knee, except a bridal favour which graced his breast. The instant his Royal Highness was seen on the stairs, he was welcomed by a loud clapping of hands with which he appeared to be exceedingly gratified, and acknowledged the compliment by repeatedly bowing to the company assembled, and it was difficult for any one to look at his fine open brow, his bright

eyes sparkling with delight, his mild yet manly countenance lighted up with joy, and not to feel as if the courtesy was bestowed individually on each ; or witness his manner of acknowledging the compliment paid to him without believing that he is one well qualified to secure for himself the respect and affection of Englishmen. The Prince was supported on one side by his Father, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and on the other by his Brother, the hereditary Prince. The Duke was dressed in a dark blue uniform, turned up with red, with military boots, similar to those worn by the Life Guards. His Serene Highness wore the collar of the order of the Garter and the star, and the star of the order of Coburg-Gotha. Prince Ernest wore a light blue cavalry uniform, with silver appointments, carrying a light helmet in his hand. His Serene Highness wore the insignia of an order of Knighthood.

The Prince entered the carriage waiting for him amid the sound of trumpets, the lowering of colours, the presenting of arms, and all the honours paid to the Queen herself. His Royal Highness, with his Father and Brother, occupied one carriage, and the attendants two others. They were escorted by a squadron of Life Guards, which circumstance sufficiently indicated his Royal Highness's presence to the expecting multitudes who thronged the Parks, and the reception which the youthful Bridegroom had experienced in the Grand Hall of the Palace was but a slight prelude to the cheers—the heart-thril-

ling cheers that greeted him as he passed beneath the Marble Arch ; they sent back a joyous echo to the Queen, who still remained within the Palace, proclaiming to her how highly her people approved their Monarch's choice.

DEPARTURE OF THE BRIDE.

The Officers of the Household who had accompanied the Prince to the carriage door, now returned to attend upon her Majesty ; and the Lord Chamberlain, having seen that seven of the royal carriages were assembled in the Court Yard, informed the Queen that all was ready. Her Majesty left her apartments leaning on the arm of the earl of Uxbridge, and accompanied by the Duchess of Kent. A few minutes after twelve, the word of import, "Sharp," was again heard, and after a short lapse of time, her Majesty descended the Grand Staircase into the Hall, accompanied by her Mother, the Duchess of Sutherland, and another Lady in Waiting, and attended by the principal Officers of the Household, with the two pages of honour, who bore her Majesty's beautiful white train. The Royal Bride was greeted with loud acclamations as she passed through the Grand Hall, but her eye was bent principally on the ground, and a hurried glance around, and a slight inclination of the head, was all the acknowledgment returned. The Great

Officers belonging to the Household hurried into their respective carriages, whilst her Majesty, accompanied by her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, and attended by the Duchess of Sutherland, seated herself in her full-dress carriage—not the state coach, in which she appeared at the coronation, and which is generally used by her Majesty, upon proceeding to parliament. The National Anthem was now struck up, the front gates were again thrown open, and at a quarter past twelve, the weather still continuing fair, the guns announced the departure of the Royal *cortége* from the Palace; it was attended by a full guard of honour, and proceeded in the following order :—

FIRST CARRIAGE.

Two Gentlemen Ushers; Exon of the Yeomen of the Guard;
Groom of the Robes.

SECOND CARRIAGE.

Equerry in Waiting, Hon. G. Grey; two Pages of Honour;
Groom in Waiting, Hon. Major Keppel.

THIRD CARRIAGE.

Clerk Marshal, Hon. H. F. Cavendish; Vice-Chamberlain, Earl of
Belfast; Keeper of the Privy Purse, Sir H. Wheatley;
Comptroller of the Household, Right Hon. G. Stevens Byng.

FOURTH CARRIAGE.

Bedchamber Women in Waiting; Captain of the Yeoman of the
Guard, Earl of Ilchester; Master of the Buckhounds, Lord
Kinnaird; Treasurer of the Household,
Earl of Surrey.

FIFTH CARRIAGE.

Maid of Honour in Waiting; Duchess of Kent's Lady in Waiting,
Lady Charlotte Dundas; Gold Stick, Lord Hill; Lord in
Waiting, Viscount Torrington.

SIXTH CARRIAGE.

Lady of the Bedchamber in Waiting; Master of the Horse, Earl of
Albemarle; Lord Steward, Earl of Errol; Lord Chamberlain,
Earl of Uxbridge.

SEVENTH CARRIAGE.

THE QUEEN.

THE DUCHESS OF KENT.

Mistress of the Robes, Duchess of Sutherland.

The royal carriages were drawn by only two horses each, and without the rich caparison which they usually wear on state occasions.

Both in descending the Grand Staircase, and for a few minutes after she had been seated in her carriage, her Majesty was observed to be extremely pale. It was plain that she was a good deal agitated, and that for a time the deep affection of the Daughter overcame all the hoped for happiness to be expected in the marriage state. But the cheers of the people soon recalled the spirits of their Sovereign. She appeared to remember that it was a day of great rejoicing to them, and then the blush of excitement re-animated her cheek, smiles sat again upon her lips, and lighted up her eyes, as she gracefully bowed in return to the gratulations, and earnest prayers and joyous toned acclamations, that came

pealing fast, loudly, and fervently upon her. It was a beautiful spectacle for her Majesty to contemplate, if the delight and excitement of the moment could afford a passing thought for the scene around, to see herself, as she passed out of her Palace, surrounded on every side with happy countenances and merry voices, all pouring forth her name, mixed with their ardent wishes for her happiness. The balconies of the Palace, the windows, and even the roof top, were filled with spectators ; the colonnade had its crowd of happy visitors ; while before her was the multitude, ready to receive her with enthusiasms, hailing her approach with shouts of joy, and signaling her advance with incessant waving of bride's favours and snow-white handkerchiefs. There were blessings poured down upon her from above, and they came gathering around her carriage as she moved along, to be repeated abroad with the giant strength of a multitude—mighty, and from its very numbers, awful in the exhibition of its raptures. Its joy was the joy of a nation pouring forth its delight in acclamations that drowned the cannon's roar, and left the ringing of innumerable joy-bells undistinguishable. Thus it was that the Queen of England passed from her Palace, to return to it the happy bride of the beloved Prince Albert. Her Majesty seemed eager to testify her sense of the affectionate loyalty of her people ; upon entering the Park she immediately lowered the carriage window, and bowed continu-

ally with that expression of sprightliness, ease, gentleness and goodness, which have invariably marked her demeanour in public. Her looks betokened her real feelings, free from all effort or affectation—those of a trustful, loving, artless girl, of whom it might well be said at such a moment, if ever of any one, that “Hope elevated and joy brightened her crest.” At this moment, the numbers in the Park exceeded, it was thought by those competent to judge of masses, a hundred thousand persons, and the buzz of expectation which the soul-stirring anthem drew from the vast assemblage was, as it went through the whole body, like the distant murmuring of the ocean. As her Majesty came in sight from each portion of the line, the cheering was deafening, accompanied by the waving of handkerchiefs and energetic shouts of “Long live your Majesty,” which continued without intermission until her arrival at St. James’s Palace.

As soon as her Majesty had quitted Buckingham House, the company there promenaded the apartments, and inspected the various portions of the building, to which they could be admitted, as the best means of passing the interval of time which must elapse, about an hour and a half, before her Majesty and his Royal Highness returned a wedded pair. The chief and most interesting point of attraction was the apartment in which the table was being laid for the *dejeuner* to be afterwards partaken of by the Royal couple, and their party. On

the centre of this table appeared the magnificent wedding cake already described.

PROCESSION OF THE BRIDEGROOM.

On the arrival of Prince Albert and his suite at St. James's Palace, his Royal Highness was immediately conducted through the Throne-room to the room beyond, where his procession was quickly formed by Sir William Woods and other heralds, and all being completed, the folding doors leading to queen Anne's drawing-room were thrown open, and the procession advanced in the following order :—

Drums and Trumpets.

Serjeant Trumpeter,

J. Rivett, Esq.

Master of the Ceremonies,

Sir Robert Chester, Knight.

The Bridegroom's Gentlemen of Honour, between two Heralds.

Vice-Chamberlain of her

Lord Chamberlain of her

Majesty's Household,

Majesty's Household,

Earl of Belfast.

Earl of Uxbridge.

THE BRIDEGROOM,

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS FIELD MARSHAL PRINCE ALBERT, K. G.,

Wearing the Collar of the Order of the Garter,

Supported by their Serene Highnesses the reigning Duke of

Saxe-Coburg and Gotha,

And the Hereditary Prince of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha,

Each attended by Officers of their Suite—namely,

Count Kolowrath, Baron Alvensleben, and Baron de Lowenfels.

The rows of seats rising one above another in all the various apartments through which the procession moved, presented a picture never to be exceeded in beauty and richness of colouring. The ladies were all dressed in a style of the greatest magnificence, and the gorgeousness of their attire was well relieved by the mixture of red and blue worn by the officers of the army and navy ; uniforms preponderated greatly over court dresses, and although the order which had been issued, that persons not in full dress would not be admitted, was in most instances strictly enforced, yet in a few instances, gentlemen attired in plain clothes were to be seen. During the long space which intervened between the arrival of the visitors in the colonnade and the time fixed for the approach of the processions of the Bride and Bridegroom, little more than the contemplation of the assembling throng presented itself for amusement. As twelve o'clock drew near, the entrance and rapid passing by of those noble and illustrious individuals who had been provided with admissions to the royal Chapel, furnished food for remark and curiosity, but the Duke of Wellington was the only person whose appearance elicited any general or especial notice. As his grace passed towards the Chapel, he was recognized, and loudly cheered, a greeting which he acknowledged by repeated bows. At mid-day, the interest and anxiety of the public arose to the highest pitch ; and each moment served but to

increase the general excitement. The retirement of the Heralds, who had been hitherto, with the Officers of the Household, passing to and fro through the line of route, betokened preparation, and at length, at twenty minutes after twelve o'clock, the long wished-for sound of distant trumpets announced the approach of the princely Bridegroom. As the sound advanced, the expectation of all proportionably increased, and the whole assemblage, equally desirous of catching the first glimpse of his Royal Highness, immediately mounted the seats. As the cavalcade passed through the whole suite of apartments, his Royal Highness was loudly and enthusiastically cheered, and as he moved onward he repeatedly bowed to those who were near him. The Prince was attired in the uniform of a field marshal, in which his fine and well-moulded figure was set off to the best advantage. On approaching to the Chapel, his Royal Highness looked pale, notwithstanding the exciting position in which he was placed, but he lost none of that calm dignity of manner by which his appearance is distinguished. His father and his brother were also welcomed with the utmost cordiality: both seemed pleased with their reception, and the Hereditary Prince, who has more of determination and less of good-natured complaisance in his countenance than his brother, testified his sense of it by repeatedly bowed his thanks to the fair ladies at his side.

The small though brilliant procession of the Bridegroom, passed rapidly through the appointed route, and at twenty-five minutes past twelve, reached the Chapel Royal. As the Prince entered the Chapel door, Sir George Smart commenced a voluntary on the organ, the whole assemblage within the sacred edifice arose, the drums and trumpets filed off without the doors, and the procession advancing, his Royal Highness was conducted to the seat provided for him on the left of the altar. His Royal Highness walked up the aisle, carrying the beautiful little prayer-book presented to him by his august Bride, in his right hand, and repeatedly bowed to the peers in the body of the Chapel. He was accompanied, right and left, by his father and brother. The demeanour of the Prince, although he was evidently labouring under strong emotions, was manly and graceful in the extreme. His figure and appearance could not but command attention, and his affable and courteous acknowledgment of the respectful salutations which he met on either side of his progress, could not but have secured the esteem of all who witnessed it. Indeed an occasion has been rarely known where any individual has, upon first sight, so entirely won upon the general regard and admiration, as in the case of his Royal Highness.

When his Royal Highness reached the *haut-pas* he was conducted by the Lord Chamberlain to the Queen Dowager, whose hand he respectfully but af-

sectionately kissed. He then bowed to the Archbishop of Canterbury and the archbishop of York, respectively, whose seats were on the right of the altar; then to the Bishop of London, who sat on the left of the altar, and afterwards took his seat.

His supporters, the Duke and the Hereditary Prince of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, with the officers of their suite, occupied seats near Prince Albert. The Master of the Ceremonies and the officers of the Bridegroom stood near the person of his Royal Highness. The Lord Chamberlain and Vice-Chamberlain, preceded by the drums and trumpets, then returned to wait upon her Majesty.

During the interval that elapsed between the entrance of the Royal Bridegroom and the arrival of her Majesty the Queen, the interior of the Chapel Royal presented a scene of surpassing interest. Its temporary fittings up and adornments were rich and at the same time chaste in the extreme. The glittering of the numerous military and naval uniforms, and the stars and decorations with which they were studded—the brilliancy of the diamonds, which shone on all sides on the fair forms of noble ladies—contrasted strangely with the sober garb of the Civilians, whilst the surplices of the Choristers, and the lawn sleeves of the Prelates in attendance, both gave effect to a picture of the most perfect harmony and beauty. The sun now broke through the dark and hurried clouds which had hitherto obscured it, and shedding its bright and joyous beams

through the Gothic window over the altar, infused a sense of animation into the exquisitely beautiful *ensemble*. As soon as Prince Albert entered the Chapel, he became the focus of interest and attraction ; all eyes were directed towards him, and his cool manly bearing drew forth many expressions of admiration and respect. Every one agreed that he was a remarkably handsome modest-looking young man ; his features are regular, the expression of his face mild, intelligent, and highly agreeable ; his complexion is that generally known by the description white and red, and his hair which was plainly brushed aside, is almost as light as the Queen's. He conversed a good deal with the Queen Dowager, who sat close to him, and handed to her Majesty his prayer-book for her examination. His demeanour was, after the first few minutes, perfectly unembarrassed, and although confined within the bounds of the strictest decorum, seemed full of joyful animation. It was, however, remarked that during this interval of something like suspense, his Royal Highness cast many a furtive glance towards the door ; and when, previous to her Majesty's entrance, the trumpets ceased playing for awhile, doubtless to allow time to perfect the arrangements for the procession, there was an expression of anxiety in his Royal Highness's countenance, which, though quite natural, was, to uninterested observers, somewhat amusing.

Beside the Prince, stood his father and brother,

both in full uniform. The appearance of the reigning duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, was extremely striking, from the grand proportions of his noble figure, and the commanding expression of his finely formed features ; he is truly the very *beau ideal* of a German soldier Baron—tall, stout, bold, frank yet highly polished by long practice in the formalities of courts. He wore Hessian boots and dark moustaches, and is between fifty and sixty years of age. Prince Albert is very like his father in features, but his light and nearly two inches shorter in stature. His brother is of the same dark complexion as the father, but more intensely German in figure and face than either of the former.

THE BRIDE'S PROCESSION.

On the arrival of the Queen at St. James's Palace, her Majesty was conducted to her closet, immediately behind the throne-room, where she remained attended by the Maids of Honour and Trainbearers, until the intimation was received from the Lord Chamberlain that every thing was duly prepared for the Sovereign's moving towards the Chapel.

In the throne-room, the formal procession may be said to have been formed and marshalled, and at twenty-five minutes before one o'clock, it moved through the presence-chamber, Queen Anne's drawing-room, the guard, or armoury-room, down the

grand staircase, along the colonnade to the chapel door in the subjoined order:—

Drums and Trumpets.

Sergeant Trumpeter, T. L. Parker, Esq.

Pursuivants.

W. Courthorpe, Esq.,

Rouge Croix.

T. W. King, Esq.

Rouge Dragon.

Heralds.

Robert Laurie, Esq.,

Windsor.

W. A. Blount, Esq.,

Chester.

Pursuivants.

Albert W. Woods, Esq.,

Portcullis.

G. H. R. Harrison, Esq.,

Bluemantle.

Heralds.

James Pulman, Esq.,

Richmond.

G. F. Beltz, Esq.,

Lancaster.

Charles Young, Esq., York Herald.

Pages of Honour—Master Byng, Mr. Cowell, Master Wemyss.

Equerry in Waiting, Lord A. Paget. Clerk Marshal, Hon. Col. Cavendish.

Groom in Waiting,

Hon. Major Keppel.

Lord in Waiting,

Viscount Torrington.

Comptroller of her Majesty's Household,

Right Hon. Geo. S. Byng.

Treasurer of the Household,

Earl of Surrey.

The Master of the Buckhounds,

Lord Kinnaird.

The Lord Steward of her Majesty's

Household, Earl of Erroll, K. T.

Norroy King of Arms,

Francis Martin, Esq.

Clarencieux King of Arms,

Joseph Hawker, Esq.

Lord Privy Seal,

Earl of Clarendon, G. C. H.

Lord President of the Council,

Marquis of Landsdowne, K. G.

Two Sergeants-at-Arms, wearing

their Collars of S. S., and

bearing Maces.

Two Sergeants-at-Arms, wearing

their Arms of S. S., and

bearing Maces.

Lord High Chancellor, Lord Cottenham.

Senior Gentleman Usher and Quarterly Waiter, the Hon. Heneage Legge.

Gentleman Usher Daily Waiter and to the Sword of State, William Martins, Esq.	Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod, Sir Augustus Clifford.
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Garter King-at-Arms, Sir William Woods, carrying his sceptre.

The Earl Marshal, Duke of Norfolk, K.G., carrying his gold baton of office.

Her Royal Highness Princess Sophia Matilda of Gloucester.

Princess Augusta of Cambridge,

Her train borne by the Hon. Miss Kerr.

Prince George of Cambridge,

Wearing the Collar and Star of the Order of the Garter,

Attended by Colonel Cornwall.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge,

Leading by the hand the Princess Mary of Cambridge, and attended by

Lady Augusta Somerset.

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE DUCHESS OF KENT,

Attended by Lady Fanny Howard.

(Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Gloucester was prevented by indisposition from being present.)

Her Royal Highness the Princess Augusta.

Attended by Lady Mary Pelham.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge,

Carrying his Baton as Field Marshal, and wearing the Collar of the Order of the Garter, the Bath, and St. Michael, and St. George, with the respective stars set in diamonds, attended by Baron Knesbeck.

His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex,

Wearing the Stars and Collars of the Orders of the Garter, the Thistle, and the Bath, attended by Col. Wildman.

Vice-Chamberlain of her Majesty's Household. Earl of Belfast.	The Sword of State, borne by Lord Viscount Melbourne.	Lord Chamberlain of her Majesty's Household. Earl of Uxbridge.
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THE QUEEN,

Wearing the Collar of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

Her Majesty's train borne by the following twelve unmarried Ladies, viz:—

Lady Adelaide Paget.	Lady C. A. Gordon Lennox.
Lady Sarah F. C. Villiers.	Lady E. A. G. D. Howard.
Lady Frances E. Cowper.	Lady Ida Hay.
Lady Elizabeth West.	Lady C. L. W. Stanhope.
Lady Mary A. F. Grimston.	Lady H. Bouverie.
Lady Elcanora C. Paget.	Lady Mary C. Howard.

Groom of the Robes, Captain Seymour.

Master of the Horse, the Earl of Albemarle, G. C. H.

Mistress of the Robes, the Duchess of Sutherland.

Ladies of the Bedchamber,

The Marchioness of Normanby.	The Duchess of Bedford.
The Countess of Charlemont.	The Countess of Sandwich.
The Dowager Lady Lyttleton.	The Countess Burlington.
The Lady Portman.	The Lady Barham.

Maids of Honour,

The Honourable Harriet Pitt,

The Hon. Amelia Murray.	The Hon. Caroline Cocks.
The Hon. Henrietta Anson.	The Hon. Matilda Paget.
The Hon. Harriet Lister.	The Hon. S. M. Cavendish.

Women of the Bedchamber,

Lady Harriet Clive.	Viscountess Forbes.
Lady Charlotte Copley.	Lady Caroline Barrington.
Mrs. Brand.	The Hon. Mrs. Campbell.
	Lady Gardiner.

Captain of the Yeoman	Gold Stick,	Captain of the Band
of the	Lord Hill, G. C. B.,	of Gentlemen-at-
Guard,	and G. C. H.,	Arms,
Earl of Ilchester.		Lord Foley.

The Exons of the Yeomen of the Guard, Mr. Samuel Hancock, Captain Bellairs, and Mr. Seymour Sadler; and the Clerk of the Cheque, Mr. Ellerthorp.

Six Gentlemen-at-Arms.

and

Six Yeomen of the Guard.

Scarcely any notice was taken of the individuals who led the way in the procession, until the Lord

Chancellor made his appearance; he was greeted with a few scanty cheers. Garter King-at-Arms, with all his heraldic pomp and pride, and the head of his college, the Duke of Norfolk, Earl Marshal, with all the blood of all the Howards, passed unnoticed in the throng. Her Royal Highness the Princess Sophia of Gloucester, who stopped to address Sir George Murray as she passed, was cheered. The Princess Augusta of Cambridge excited general admiration by her affability and beauty. Her royal aunt, the Princess Augusta, was cheered. Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge led her young Daughter, the Princess Mary, by the hand, and the mother of so beautiful a child could not be seen without interest. Every sympathy was awakened in behalf of her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent; but she appeared somewhat disconsolated and distressed. His Royal Highness the Duke of Sussex, who was to give away the Royal Bride, seemed in excellent spirits. Lord Melbourne carried the sword of state. Her Majesty came next looking anxious and excited and paler even than usual. She was attired plainly and with chaste magnificence, in white satin, trimmed with most splendid lace, the train, supported by twelve young and lovely girls, being of the same material, and adorned round the edges with sprigs of orange blossoms. On her head her Majesty wore a simple wreath of the same blossoms, unadorned with any costly ornaments, except a magnificent diamond

pin which confined her beautiful veil of Honiton lace to the back of her hair ; this veil was not drawn over her face, but fell in graceful folds on either shoulder ; a pair of very large diamond earrings a diamond necklace, and the insignia of the order of the Garter, were the principal ornaments worn by the Queen,

The Bridesmaids and Trainbearers were similarly attired, except that they had no veils, and ladies more beautiful never graced a palace, hall, or country-green. During the route of the procession every eye was turned upon them and their Royal Mistress. Theirs were fixed upon her, and as they moved and turned in conformity with her steps, it was evident that female vanity was for a time deadened in their bosoms, and that they were thinking not of the impression which they themselves created, but of that which was created by the Royal Bride. They were followed by the Duchess of Sutherland. Of the Ladies of the Bedchamber, and the Maids of Honour, it need only be said that they did honour to the court and to their places in the procession.

Shout after shout of approbation and delight rapidly succeeded each other as her Majesty advanced and gracefully curtsied in answer to the acclamations of the people. As chamber after chamber was passed by the procession, in all were similar demonstrations of gratification exhibited, until at length the brilliant train reached the door

of the Chapel ; and while the drums and trumpets again filed 'off, and the Gentlemen-at-Arms, Yeomen of the Guard, and those who, from their condition, were not permitted to be present during the ceremonial, remained without, her Majesty entered the sacred edifice.

THE MARRIAGE CEREMONIAL.

As soon as her Majesty entered the Chapel, Sir George Smart again played a charming voluntary, into which he introduced the subject of Handel's chorus, "A virtuous Wife shall soften Fortune's frowns," and the Queen walked up the aisle, followed by her trainbearers and attendants, without noticing or bowing to any of the Peers. As she passed Prince Albert, however, a silent greeting was exchanged between the royal lovers. Her Majesty, although she looked rather pale, in spite of an evident and successful effort to maintain that composure which so well suited with her high station, and the trying occasion in which she was engaged, appeared to be in good health, and walked with a firm and dignified step. On reaching the *haut-pas*, her Majesty knelt on her footstool, and having performed her private devotions, sat down in her chair of state. The different state officers having taken their seats in the body of the chapel, the *coup d'œil* presented a scene of magnificence

and splendour beyond description. Beautiful before, it now became surpassingly picturesque and brilliant. The altar and the *haut-pas* were in themselves perfect pictures; and the interesting occasion on which this gay throng was called together, could not fail to throw around the whole a charm of the most irresistible nature. On the left of the altar, on the *haut-pas*, were his Royal Highness Prince Albert, her Majesty the Queen Dowager, his Serene Highness the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, the hereditary Prince Ernest, the Duchess of Cambridge, Prince George of Cambridge, Princesses Augusta and Mary of Cambridge, and Princess Augusta. On the right side of the altar, were her Majesty, her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent, and their Royal Highnesses the Dukes of Sussex and Cambridge, Lord Melbourne, the Lord Chancellor, and other great officers of state. In the pews in the body of the chapel sat some of the Ministers dressed in the cabinet uniform, and the different ladies who had formed part of the procession.

The twelve Bridesmaids stood behind her Majesty, and held up her train during the ceremony, and besides these illustrious maidens, little Master Byng, unquestionably the smallest courtier in Great Britain, was in close attendance upon her Majesty. In the aisle of the chapel stood the Pursuivants, Heralds, Pages, and other attendants, decorated with wedding favours; and at the door-ways and along the passages were stationed the Soldiers.

Gentlemen-at-Arms, &c. With such gorgeous materials, it is not wonderful that a picture, rich in harmony of colouring and grouping, was produced. It was indeed a beautiful scene, such as few will witness again, and the effect was much heightened by the sunbeams, which had hitherto only partially shone through the Gothic window, widening into an expanse of sunshine as her Majesty proceeded up the aisle.

In the brief space that intervened before the commencement of the service, the attention of the spectators was successively bestowed upon the various members of the Royal Family who walked in the procession. The Princess Sophia-Matilda, the Duchess of Cambridge, the Princess Augusta, and more especially the Duchess of Kent, were in succession recognised and warmly greeted. The Duke of Sussex was also particularly welcomed, and the benevolent countenance of the Duke of Cambridge made its usual pleasing impression. While the elder branches of the Royal Family, however, were thus received, the budding beauties of the Princess Augusta of Cambridge, and the little Princess Mary were no less warmly admired; the easy grace and unaffected simplicity of manner of the former, and the childish but exquisite beauty of the latter, attracted universal attention.

After the lapse of a few seconds, her Majesty rose, and advanced with his Royal Highness Prince Albert, to the communion table; the Archbishop of

Canterbury also came forward, and in a clear and benignant tone of voice immediately commenced reading the marriage service.

Never, perhaps, had the noble spectators assembled in the Royal Chapel witnessed any scene so calculated to excite their sympathies and engage their attention as that now presented to them. Her Majesty has been seen in the vast and venerable area of Westminster Abbey receiving the homage of her assembled nobles, and pledging herself to maintain the laws and constitution of the land she rules, and the enthusiastic loyalty and love with which that imposing ceremony was viewed by all who beheld it is well remembered ; but, on the present occasion, when the majesty of the Queen was almost, as it were, merged in the feelings of the woman ; when, as “ a woman,” she was addressed by the most Reverend Prelate, and as a woman she took the “ man” of her choice before the assembled nobles of her kingdom, and vowed to “ love, honour, and obey” him, in the same form of phrase as the humblest of her subjects, an attack was made upon the hearts of all who were present, which surely few could have experienced without emotion.

The service was precisely that of our liturgy ; the passages left open for the names, with the initials M. and N., being simply supplied with the names “ Albert and Victoria.” It was read by the Archbishop with great appropriateness and much

feeling, the Bishop of London repeating the responses. The deportment of the Royal Bride and Bridegroom were watched throughout with intense anxiety ; the Prince pronounced the words required from him in a tone of softened feeling, while her Majesty spoke in a much firmer and more distinct voice. When the Archbishop came to the words " Albert, wilt thou have this woman to thy wedded wife, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy state of matrimony ? Wilt thou comfort her, honour, and keep her in sickness and in health ; and forsake all other, keep thee only unto her, as long as ye both shall live ?" his Royal Highness, with a perfectly English accent, replied, " I will."

When the similar inquiry was addressed to her Majesty, " Victoria, wilt thou have Albert to thy wedded husband, to live together after God's ordinance in the holy state of matrimony ? Wilt thou obey him and serve him, love, honour, and keep him in sickness and in health ; and forsake all other, keep thee only unto him so long as ye both shall live ?" the Queen, in accents which, though full of softness and music, were audible at the most extreme corner of the chapel, replied, " I will ;" and on so doing accompanied the expression with a glance at his Royal Highness, which convinced all who beheld it that her heart was with her words.

When the Archbishop inquired, " Who giveth this woman to be married to this man ?" the Duke of Sussex earnestly said " I do," and at the same

time stepping forward, he took her Majesty by the hand, and presented her to the Prince.

The usual forms of trothing faith were then gone through, and in a tone of voice and with a clearness of expression seldom witnessed on such occasions in much humbler walks of life. Her Majesty's pronunciation of the words, "love, cherish, and obey," and the confiding look with which they were accompanied, were inimitably chaste and beautiful. The exact words spoken by the Archbishop, and repeated by the Prince, after his Grace were, "I, Albert, take thee, Victoria, to my wedded wife, to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, till death us do part, according to God's holy ordinance ; and thereto I plight thee my troth."

Her Majesty repeated the words *mutatis mutandis*, "I, Victoria, take thee, Albert, to my wedded husband, to have and to hold from this day forward, for better for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health, to love, cherish, and to obey, till death do us part, according to God's holy ordinance ; and thereto I give thee my troth." Her Majesty somewhat raised her voice as she pronounced the word "obey."

The Archbishop of Canterbury then took the ring, a plain gold ring, from his Royal Highness, and placed it to the fourth finger of her Majesty, returned it to his Royal Highness. Prince Albert

put it on, repeating after his grace these words " With this ring I thee wed, with my body I thee worship, and with all my worldly goods I do thee endow ; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen."

The remaining portions of the ceremony were then impressively read by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and at the moment his grace pronounced the Royal Pair to be man and wife together, the Earl of Uxbridge gave the signal, and the Park guns fired a royal salute, which was answered by the cheers of the assembled multitude without. The service being concluded, the several members of the Royal Family who had occupied places around the altar, returned to take their positions in the procession. On passing her Majesty they all paid their congratulations, and the Duke of Sussex, after shaking her by the hand in a manner which appeared to have little ceremony, but much cordiality in it, affectionately kissed her cheek. When the little Princess Mary advanced, the Queen, with her usual expression of fondness for children, took her up in her arms and kissed her several times. After all had passed with the exception of the Bride and Bridegroom, her majesty stepped hastily across to the other side of the altar, where the Queen Dowager was standing, and kissed her with evident and unaffected cordiality. Prince Albert also kissed the Queen Dowager's hand, acknowledged her congratulations, and then turning to his

august Bride, the Royal Pair left the chapel, all the spectators standing.

Such was the course and termination of this solemn and interesting event ; “ May God’s blessing be upon it.” The entire ceremony occupied about forty minutes, and was conducted throughout with the utmost dignity and simplicity.

Apart from the great historical and national associations with which the Royal Pair were invested, their personal appearance and manner excited affectionate interest, and if they had approached the altar without any of that regal pomp which surrounded them, a strange spectator would have wished well to her as a graceful young maiden, and to him as a modest, honest, and withal a gallant-looking young fellow. But, considered with reference to all its great connexions, the ceremony was solemn and awful in the highest degree ; and whilst each individual present prayed for prosperity to those whose hands he now saw joined together, he could not help reflecting that himself and the vast surrounding, anxious multitude would most probably have been all long consigned to their respective tombs before a similar event should again be celebrated in the Royal House of England.

**RETURN FROM THE CHAPEL ROYAL TO THE
THRONE-ROOM.**

The deep interest taken by the spectators in the colonnade in the proceedings of the day was shown by the general silence which prevailed up to the period of the Queen's approach. As soon as she had passed into the chapel, every tongue seemed set at liberty, and a confused murmur arose, which compelled the attendants to close the doors of the ante-chapel, lest it should penetrate into the chapel where the solemn rites of religion were performing. A word, however, from one of the officers of the Lord Chamberlain was sufficient to put an end to this impropriety. The doors were again opened, the music of the anthem was faintly heard, the guns ceased to fire, and at about twenty minutes past one the procession began to be remarshalled for its return. The Bridegroom's procession, which was however robbed of the Bridegroom's presence, returned first. Again were the Duke and the hereditary Prince of Saxe-Coburg loudly cheered. The nuptial procession then returned in the same order as before. On the appearance of her Majesty, hand-in-hand with her royal husband, the clapping of hands and waving of handkerchiefs was renewed, time after time, until they had passed out of sight. Whether by accident or design, his Royal Highness

Prince Albert enclosed her Majesty's hand in his own in such a way as to display the wedding ring, which appeared more solid than is usual in ordinary weddings. On their return, cheers were given to most of the ladies of royal birth, who had received them on their approach.

THE ATTESTATION.

The great portion of the ladies and gentlemen forming the procession remained in the drawing-room, but the Queen and his Royal Highness Prince Albert, with the several members of the Royal Family, the principal Ministers, and great Officers of State, passed on to the throne-room, where the illustrious party were shortly joined by the dignitaries of the church who had officiated in the marriage service. The splendid attestation table, with its legs of Egyptian leonine gold, and its crest-like spurs and massive claws, stood nearly in the centre of the apartment. On the left hand from the entrance was the throne, and opposite to it the opening to the grand vista of rooms *en suite*, in every one of which several hundred persons of rank were assembled. Her Majesty stood between the attestation table and the fire-place, fronting the former ; at a short distance from her was Prince Albert, and environing them on either side the members of the Royal Family, the Archbishops,

the Bishop of London, and the Father and Brother of the Prince. The Bishop of London opened the royal register which was placed upon another book in order to raise it ; it is a singularly curious and highly valuable memento of the royal nuptial witnessings for centuries past, and is in the keeping of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Near it stood the inkstand, a beautifully finished and massive piece of gold plate. The Queen first wrote her name, Prince Albert signed next, and then in succession each of the royal party affixed their attestations, there being upon the whole thirty names enrolled. The Prelates retired from the royal presence at the conclusion of the august ceremony, and her Majesty and his Royal Highness Prince Albert shortly afterwards took their departure, attended by the royal suite, for Buckingham Palace.

THE RETURN TO BUCKINGHAM PALACE.

Precisely at half-past one, the discharge of a royal salute of twenty-one guns, by the ordnance on the parade in front of the Horse Guards, announced to the inhabitants of the metropolis that the ring had been placed upon the finger of her Majesty, and the crowd began to prepare for the return of the illustrious pair. The procession to Buckingham Palace was re-formed pretty much in the same order in which it moved in the morning.

Prince Albert took his place in the Queen's carriage, and the Duchess of Sutherland sat with the Earl of Albemarle, who, on this occasion alone, waived his official right to be in the same carriage with her Majesty.

Soon after the guns had ceased to fire, the rain began to fall very heavily, and almost instantly the Park was covered in every direction with a waving ocean of umbrellas. Several carriages issued at intervals from the Palace, each exciting expectation only to disappoint it. At every movement there were shouts of "down with the umbrellas," from the crowd, whose view was obstructed: and at each call the umbrellas were closed, although the rain was coming down in torrents. At each disappointment they went up again; but at length at about a quarter before two, the signal announcing that her Majesty and the Prince had entered the carriage was heard, and almost at the same moment, the rain abated, and before her Majesty's carriage reached the garden gate at St. James's Palace, it had entirely ceased. At the appearance of the royal *cortège*, the most enthusiastic acclamations burst from the assembled multitudes, and although the carriage in which the Queen and Prince Albert were seated had the windows closed, the instant her Majesty heard the warm-hearted greetings of her subjects, she put down the windows, and acknowledged their congratulations with the sweetest smile of courtesy and pleasure; accustomed to the re-

joicings of her people, she seemed to fix her eye on each member of the crowd as if she recognised in him "one of memory's old familiar faces." Yet though she subdued her emotion with a graceful and generous effort, it was evident that she felt strongly and acutely the alteration which her position had undergone since she had answered to similar demonstrations of popular attachment scarcely an hour before. She had entered the house of God as she had hitherto done, a guileless innocent being, reposing with confidence on the tender love of a fond, watchful, doating, Mother, and cherishing those aspirations of piety and devotion which her warm-hearted nature, and her pious education alike inspired; she came out again amongst her people a wife, as well as a Princess, with all the wide range of duties which attach to her in the former character, as well as in the latter. It is not therefore surprising that at such a moment the palid thoughtfulness of her brow should tell that there were many emotions struggling within. Arrived at Buckingham Palace, however, the flush of agitation again overspread her cheeks, and the royal Bride entered her own hall with an open, joyous countenance, and smilingly acknowledged the loud and cordial cheers which rang through the apartment. The princely Bridegroom assisted her Majesty to alight, and conducted her through the state rooms into the apartment prepared for the royal *dejeuné*. It was remarkable that amid the

concourse of persons who crowded the hall and staircase, there was a vast proportion of children, whose countenances beamed with pleasure and enjoyment, and whose infant minds seemed deeply impressed by the brilliant spectacle presented to them. Her Majesty upon entering the hall, observed upon the great number of beautiful children thus assembled, and expressed the pleasure it afforded her to see herself surrounded at such a moment by so many happy little beings. This kind and considerate remark was well calculated to gratify the feelings of those to whom those little ones were most dear, and in whose hearts the royal condescension manifestly produced the greatest delight.

The Duchess of Kent next returned, accompanied by her brother, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha, and her nephew, the hereditary Prince. The royal Duchess was loudly greeted, and graciously acknowledged her reception. The Duke of Sussex and the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, with Prince George and the two Princesses, immediately followed. The Duke of Cambridge led the little Princess Mary into the presence of the Queen. The guests invited now arrived in rapid succession.

THE WEDDING BREAKFAST,

Took place soon after two o'clock, and it is only

necessary to state the table was profusely and appropriately decorated, and all that could be desirable on such an occasion was displayed to tempt the appetite or exhilarate the spirits, the wedding cake forming a prominent object of attraction and attack. The health of the royal Bride and Bridegroom was proposed, with his usual good humour, by the Duke of Sussex, and happiness reigned throughout the august assemblage.

DEPARTURE FOR WINDSOR.

The breakfast concluded, the royal couple retired to relieve themselves of their wedding attire, and to prepare for their journey to Windsor. In the interim, the rain having ceased, the sides of Constitution Hill, as well as the avenues leading towards Windsor, were thronged to excess. The roads were lined with carriages, some open, and all filled with inmates anxious to give a parting cheer to the happy couple; in short, the excitement of the morning continued unabated. At four o'clock, her Majesty and her Consort set out from Buckingham Palace, in a carriage and four, with outriders in in scarlet liveries, escorted by a party of the 14th light Dragoons, and attended by the royal suite in four other carriages. As her Majesty's plain but remarkably elegant travelling chariot passed under the Marble Arch, the royal standard was lowered

Her Majesty now wore a white satin pelisse, trimmed with swansdown, with a white velvet bonnet and feather, and looked to great advantage in a costume which bore none of the marks of royalty, but was simply that of an English lady. Prince Albert's plain dark travelling dress was equally becoming; and as he bowed in acknowledgment of the enthusiastic salutations with which he was greeted, it was impossible to conceive a more noble expression than that by which his countenance was animated. The sun, which had been hidden by the clouds throughout the day, broke forth with the utmost splendour just as the royal cavalcade left the Palace, and its setting beams imparted an additional brightness to the happy countenances of the Queen and her Consort. Both bowed most graciously as the carriage moved along, amidst the overflowing gratulations of a joyful people.

There being now nothing more to be seen, the crowd slowly dispersed, neither fatigued nor disappointed, notwithstanding the general unfavourableness of the weather, but full of hopeful anticipation for the future, from the interesting events of the day.

PROGRESS TO WINDSOR.

It was to be expected that if at any place on their line of route, the royal Couple were received with

more than enthusiasm, that place would be KENSINGTON—the scene of her Majesty's early youth, and her constant residence until she ascended to the throne :—more than enthusiasm might indeed be anticipated from the inhabitants of that place ; and assuredly if the lively demonstrations that proceeded from thousands of persons assembled along the line were not misunderstood, feelings of the most ardent affection occupied their hearts, and dictated the loud and hearty welcome which they gave to their young bridal Queen. The people of Kensington did not belie the expectation ; transparencies, illumination lamps, wreaths of laurel, flags, banners and loyal inscriptions covered the whole frontage on either side of the High-street, and throughout the whole town there was not a house, however retire, or however insignificant, but what had its tribute of evergreens, or its preparation for the illumination of the evening. At the commencement of the High-street, an immense triumphal arch was erected, formed of different kinds of evergreens. and adorned with emblematic devices. Underneath this arch a band had stationed themselves, and they continued playing the most popular airs during the day. Occasionally the exuberant loyalty of the crowd obliged them to vary their performance by “Rule Britannia,” and “God save the Queen.” From this spot forward the multitude of human beings who crowded the windows and balconies, and literally dammed up the whole foot and car-

riage way, would almost lead one to suppose that all London had thronged forth to usher the royal pair thus far on their nuptial journey. The royal *cortège* advanced from the Park at a rapid pace; but on her Majesty perceiving the preparations made by the inhabitants of her native place to greet her progress through their vicinity, on an occasion of such deep interest to the nation generally, an order was immediately issued to proceed more steadily, and the Queen and her illustrious Consort passed under the triumphal arch at a walking pace, amidst expressions of loyalty and attachment, which far exceeded any before witnessed. Every hat was off, and the windows of the houses was one mass of waving handkerchiefs. The cavalcade proceeded at a comparatively slow pace forward towards Windsor; multitudes of persons thus had an opportunity of accompanying their Sovereign even to the end of her short but triumphal journey, of which they gladly availed themselves, impelled by the delight they experienced in seeing her so lovely, so happy, so affable, seated beside her amiable Consort, the beloved and honourable husband of her choice.

Throughout the whole line of road the appearance of a continued jubilee was kept up; at Hammer-smith, at Chiswick, at Turnham Green, at Hounslow, at Cranford Bridge, at Colnbrook, and in short at every town and village between the royal residences, dense crowds were collected, who received the bridal cavalcade with similar enthusiasm to that

exhibited in the metropolis, so that from time to time it became almost impossible to proceed.

At the entrance into Eton, the whole of the scholars and masters of the school were drawn up to the number of five hundred and fifty, wearing bridal favours, and received the Queen and the Prince opposite the college with loud huzzas, which appeared highly to gratify her Majesty. The Etonians escorted her through Eton, cheering the Royal Pair the whole of the way, until they retired upon the royal carriages entering the Castle gates.

WINDSOR

Was not behind hand with London nor even with Kensington in its preparations for the joyful reception of the bridal pair, and never before were such hearty demonstrations of loyalty and attachment exhibited in this town. The evening had closed in before the arrival of her Majesty ; the whole town was therefore illuminated on her entrance, and the effect of the lights upon the congregated multitude was exceedingly splendid. At half-past six, the crowd on the Castle Hill had become so dense that it was with difficulty the road could be kept clear for the royal carriages to pass. The whole street was one living mass. whilst the walls of the houses glowed with the brilliancy of gas in the form of crowns, stars, and every imaginable device. At this moment, a flight of rockets was visible in the

air ; it was apparently over Eton, and it was immediately concluded that the Queen had entered that town. The bells now rang merrily, and the shouts of the spectators were heard as the royal *cortège* approached the Castle. At twenty minutes before seven, it reached the High-street, Windsor, pursued and surrounded by a lusty band of devoted subjects, who sought by shout and cheer to convince her Majesty, of how earnestly and heartily they participated in the joyfulness of the occasion which gave her a husband, and promised to the land a succession of Princes. Her Majesty acknowledged the greetings of the noisy but respectful crowd with her usual courtesy, bowing frequently, and taking no pains to conceal herself from their gaze. She looked pale and somewhat fatigued, but the honest warmth of her reception by so vast a concourse appeared to make a deep impression. Prince Albert also, who is a great favourite at Windsor, seemed in the highest spirits at the cordiality with which he was greeted. Attended thus by the blessings of thousands, the procession entered the Castle gates ; the royal carriages drew up at the grand entrance, the Prince first alighted, then offered his hand to her Majesty, and the Queen lightly jumping off the step was supported on the arm of the Prince to her private apartments. The Etonians having seen the Royal Couple fairly ensconced within their stately abode, gave nine times nine cheers and retired, when immediately the Castle

gates were closed, as a barrier between her Majesty and the noisy world without.

Such extraordinary delay had taken place in preparing the apartments at the Castle for the reception of her Majesty that at one time it was thought that even the bridal chamber would not be ready by the time the Royal Pair arrived ; during the whole of the wedding morning, carpenters, gilders, and other workmen were busily engaged in completing the necessary alterations and embellishments—her majesty having relinquished her former domicile for one of larger dimensions in the august Tower, which is situated just on the right of the grand entrance to the Castle, and looking towards the Long Walk. The bedstead is manufactured of maple wood, and is a beautiful specimen of workmanship ; the hangings and curtains of the room are of figured green damask, and the remainder of the furniture, some portion of which belonged to the old apartment, but the greater part is either new or much embellished, has been made to correspond throughout.

STATE BANQUET, AND REJOICINGS IN LONDON AND
THE COUNTRY.

In the evening, a great state dinner was given in the Banqueting-room at St. James's Palace, at which the Duchess of Kent presided, accompanied

by the Duke and hereditary Prince of Saxe-Coburg Gotha. The whole of the royal gold plate was used on this occasion, making a display of magnificence which it is not easy to conceive. A cross table at the end of the room was appropriated for the principal guests ; the rest of the company occupied two long tables at the sides. In the middle of the cross table was placed her Majesty's wedding cake, decorated with four elegant flags of white satin, containing the royal arms. A splendid sideboard at the end of the room, hung with crimson drapery, looped up with white rosettes, and surmounted by an imperial crown, displayed to advantage a great number of every variety of shields, salvers, tankards, and cups, interspersed and illuminated with candelabra and sconces.

About a hundred and fifty distinguished guests including the royal Bridesmaids, sat down to dinner; they were all in full court dress, the knights wearing the insignia of their respective orders. After dinner, the Lord Steward proposed the health of the Queen, Prince Albert, the Queen Dowager, the Duke of Saxe-Coburg, the Duchess of Kent, and Prince Earnest, all of which were drank with hearty acclamations by the company. At twenty minutes past ten o'clock, the Duchess of Kent arose, and the ladies retired to the state drawing-room, which, with the throne-room and Privy Council chamber, had been thrown open and lighted up. By twelve o'clock the whole of the company had departed to

attend a party given by the Duchess of Sutherland, who had retired shortly after the ladies rose from the dinner-table.

The evening closed in the Metropolis with rejoicings of every imaginable description, both public and private ; dinners, parties, balls, routes, the theatres thrown open gratis, and illuminations as splendid though, perhaps, not quite so general as those which took place at the Coronation.

This eventful day, so auspicious to the hopes of the whole nation, was also celebrated with the utmost hilarity and loyal joy throughout every part of her Majesty's dominions ; high and low, rich and poor, all united in doing honour to the nuptials of their much loved Queen, and in warmly responding to the wish that ere another year has completed its rapid round, they may be enabled to greet with equal favour, the much desired birth of a PRINCE OF WALES.

OLD ENGLAND'S ROYAL BRIDE.

Unfurl the banners to the breeze,
And bid the cannon roar,
Let Britain, mistress of the seas,
Her loudest plaudites pour ;
From shore to shore the shout shall run,
Upborne upon the tide,
To welcome with the morrow's sun,
Old England's Royal Bride.

Proud daughter of a kingly race,
Young empress of the Isles,
That morn shall view thy lovely face
All radiant with smiles ;
And thou shalt at the altar stand,
The loved one by thy side,
For he has won thy heart and hand,
Old England's Royal Bride.

A diadem thou wearest now,
Of gems and jewels rare.
But love shall deck thy sunny brow,
And wreath his chapel there ;
Too oft, alas ! the golden ring
A monarch's cares betide—
Affection's wreath its charms shall fling
Round England's Royal Bride.

Thy home it is the regal throne,
Young empress of the Isles—
'Tis there thou standest all alone
To mark a nation's smiles :
But there's a home, a smile, to thee
More dear than all beside,
O may it ever cherished be
By England's Royal Bride.

There's joy within thy Father's halls,
Glad revelry is there,
And loudly on thine ear there falls
The voice of rich and fair.

And bid the cannon roar,
Let Britain, mistress of the seas,
Her loudest plaudits pour ;
From shore to shore the shout shall run,
Upborne upon the tide,
To welcome with the morrow's sun,
Old England's Royal Bride.

CHARLES SHERIDAN BROWN.

February, 1840.

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